

BIG COMICS

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4

人は死ぬ

山本直樹

小学館
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雑誌 45785－04　　小学館

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PEOPLE DIE

ARIGATO

山本直樹



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SCANNED AND EDITED BY GATSU

THEHAWKS.ORG

TRANSLATED BY STEPHEN PAUL



GLASSES BOY FLIES AGAIN

36


During lunch break, I go on the roof.

2

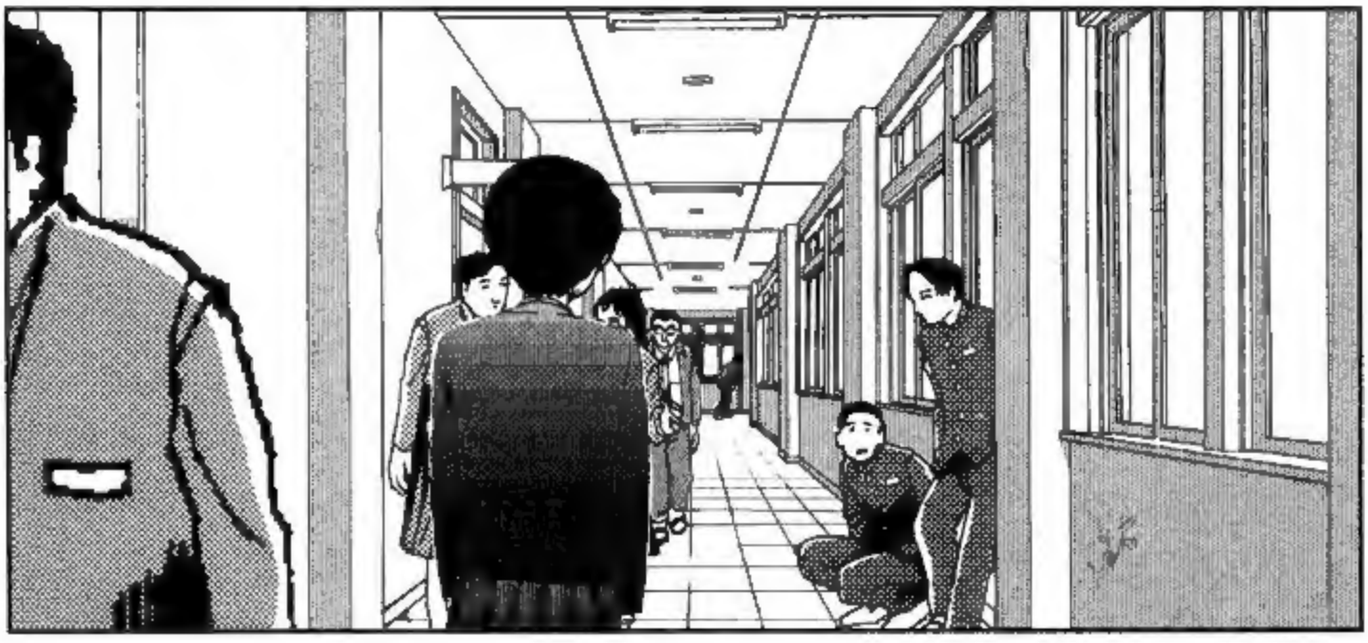

HEY, SUZUKI-SAN.
WHAT, IT'S NOT THE "STALK"?
WHAT'S THE STALK PART OF A MUSHROOM CALLED?
IT COMES OUT ABOUT THIS FAR.
LET'S GO THE CAFETERIA.
I'M TIRED OF RAMEN.
SERIOUSLY, DRINKING URINE WORKS.
STOP, I'M EATING.
YEAH, THE FIRST SONG ON SIDE 3.

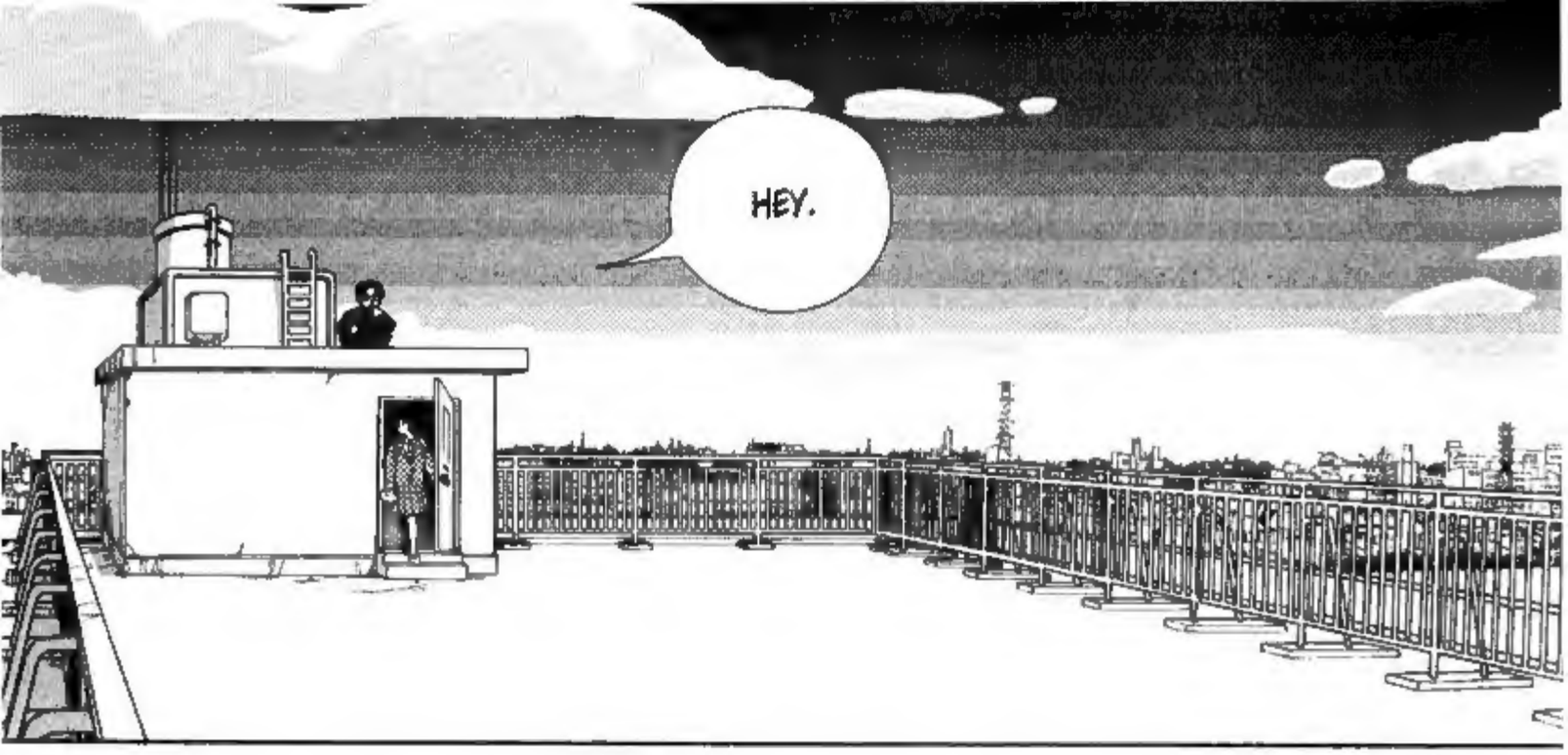
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YOU DISAPPEAR SOMEWHERE EVERYDAY. BUT THAT THROWS OFF THE HARMONY OF THE CLASS.
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A SCHOOL RULE, YOU HAVE TO EAT LUNCH IN THE CLASSROOM ?


HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, SUZUKI-SAN? HEY!
I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE A KNOW-IT-ALL, BUT I HAVE TO SAY IT BECAUSE I'M THE CLASS REP...

3

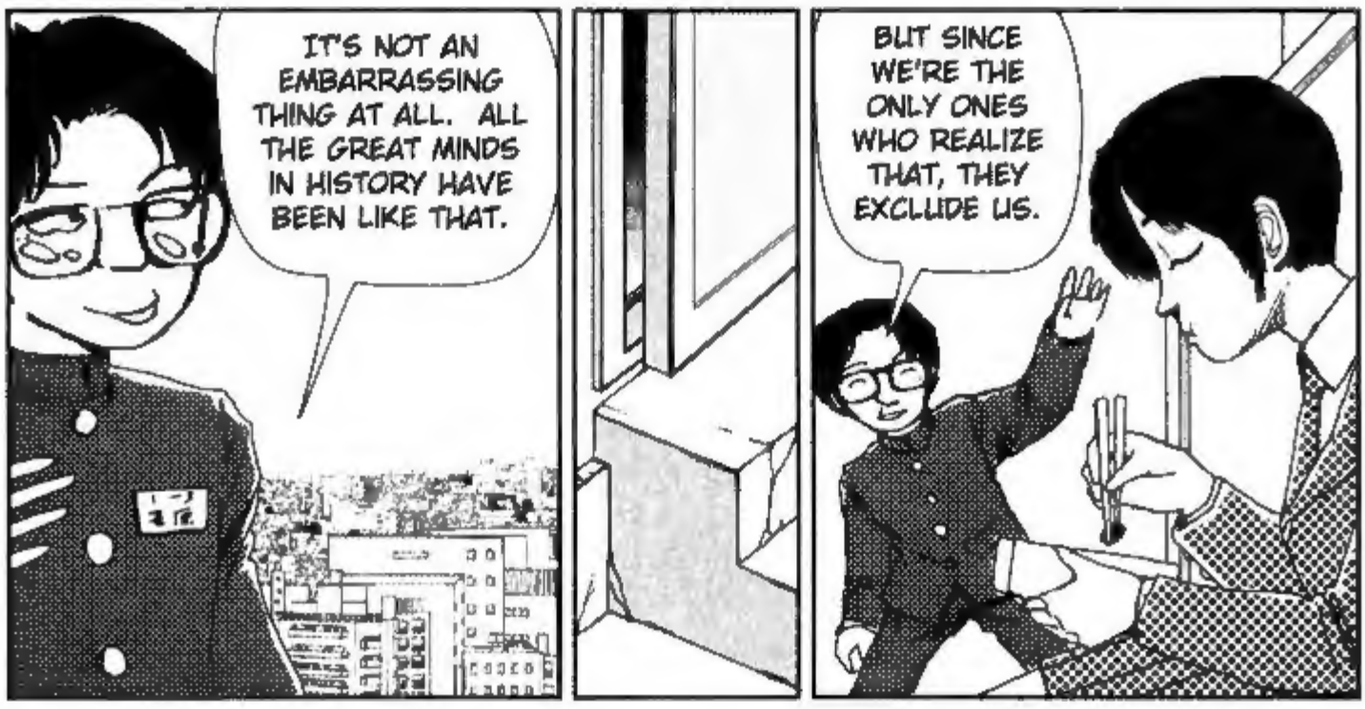



HEY.


I ALREADY FIRED UP THE BLUNT.
TOOK YOU A WHILE.


NOPE. YOU'RE SO OFF. ABOUT AS WRONG AS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEALS AND SEA LIONS.
YOU'RE CRAZY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOU THINK I'M UP ON THE ROOF BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS TO EAT LUNCH WITH?
4
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS ?
HEY,
W-WHAAAT ?
HUH?
WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU THEN HUH? DON'T YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS?
I DON'T.


THEY DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE THEIR CATTLE CAR PRISONS. THEY JUST STAY LOCKED UP IN THEIR CLASSROOMS AND BUILD UP THEIR DISCOMFORT.
LOOK, YOU SEE ALL THOSE COWARDS DOWN THERE?
WHEN YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE LOCKED IN A CAGE, YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SKY.
THEY COULD ESCAPE IF THEY CHOSE, BUT THEY DON'T.


IT'S NOT AN EMBARRASSING THING AT ALL. ALL THE GREAT MINDS IN HISTORY HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT.
BUT SINCE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALIZE THAT, THEY EXCLUDE US.

5


OH, HERE YOU ARE.
SO BASICALLY ...


'BOUT TIME WE FOUND YOU, BUG!!
WE COULDN'T FIND YOU FOR THE LONGEST TIME. SO THIS IS WHERE YOU HIDE.


YOU CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR ON US. IT'S MEAN. WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
WE WERE LOOKIN' FOR YOU, BUG.

6


ARE YOU AVOIDING US?
OF COURSE NOT. FRIENDS DON'T AVOID EACH OTHER.


YOUR NAME IS BUG?
OF COURSE NOT, THAT'S JUST A NICKNAME.
MY NAME IS KAKIBARA, LIKE IT SAYS RIGHT ON THE NAMETAG.

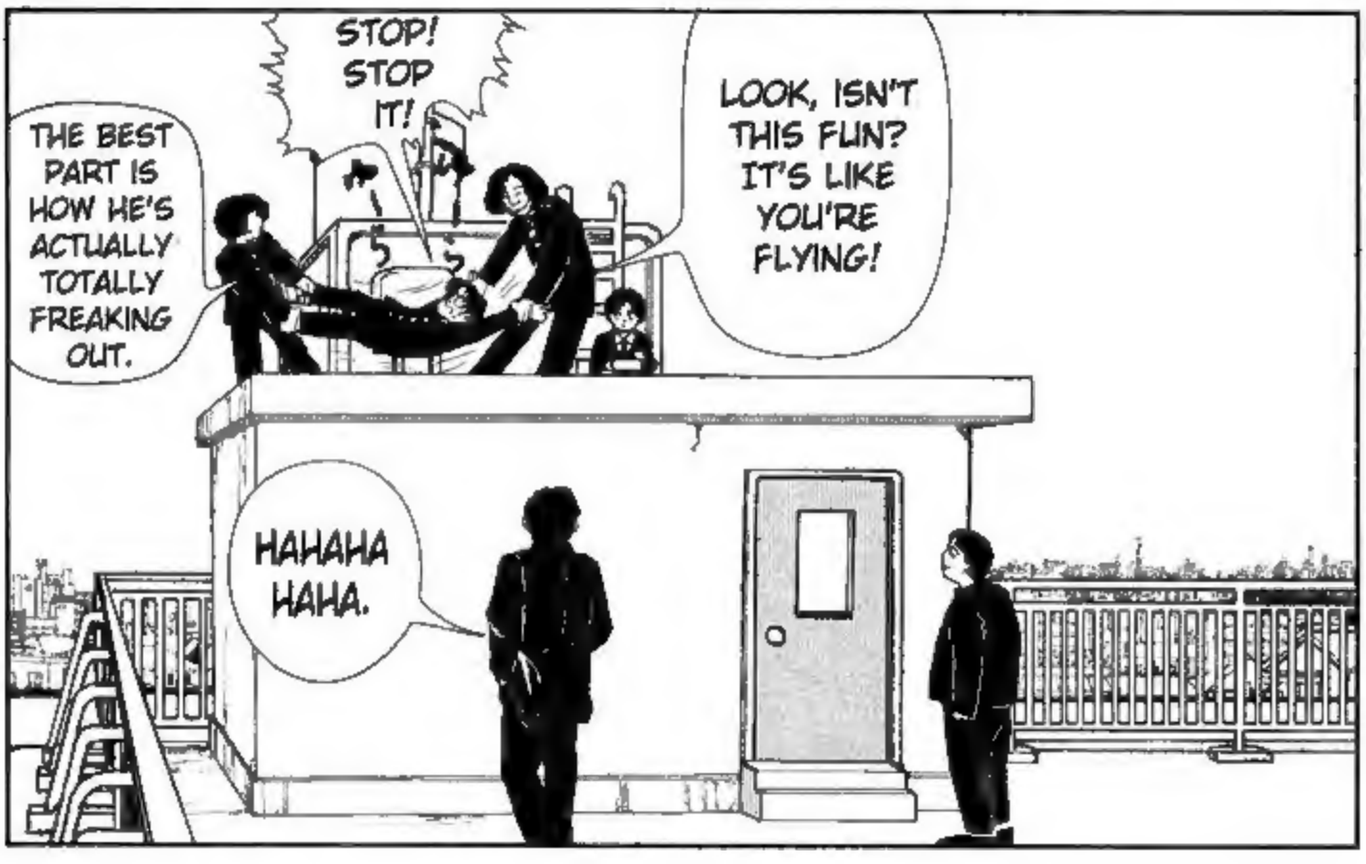

Y-YEAH.
OR DO YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US? WE'RE SORRY IF YOU DO. YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS,


N-NO, STOP IT...
C'MON, DON'T BE SHY.


YOU'RE SO LUCKY, BUG.
WE WISH *WE* COULD EAT LUNCH WITH A GIRL.


C'MON MAN, WE GOTTA MAKE IT UP.
N...
NO, IT'S COOL...

7


STOP! STOP IT!
THE BEST PART IS HOW HE'S ACTUALLY TOTALLY FREAKING OUT.
LOOK, ISN'T THIS FUN? IT'S LIKE YOU'RE FLYING!
HAHAHA HAHA.

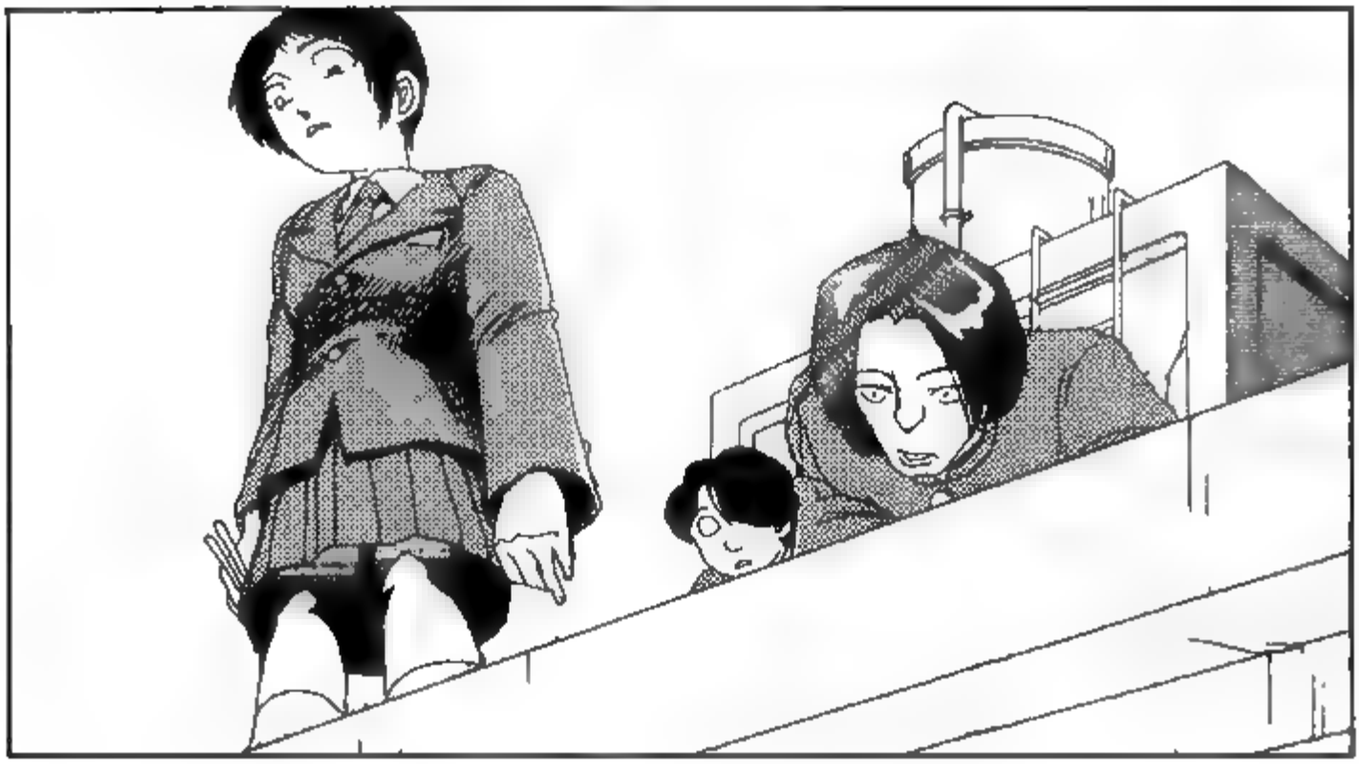

HERE WE GO!
READY, SET!
AAAH HHH!!
ALL READY, MEN!
NOOO!
TOSS!!
OOPS.

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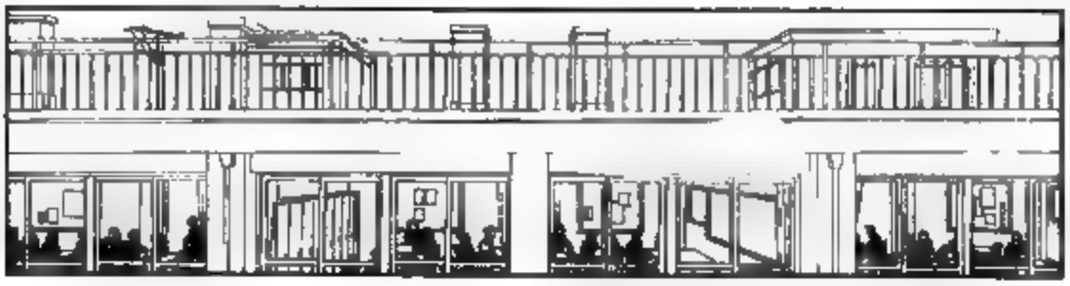




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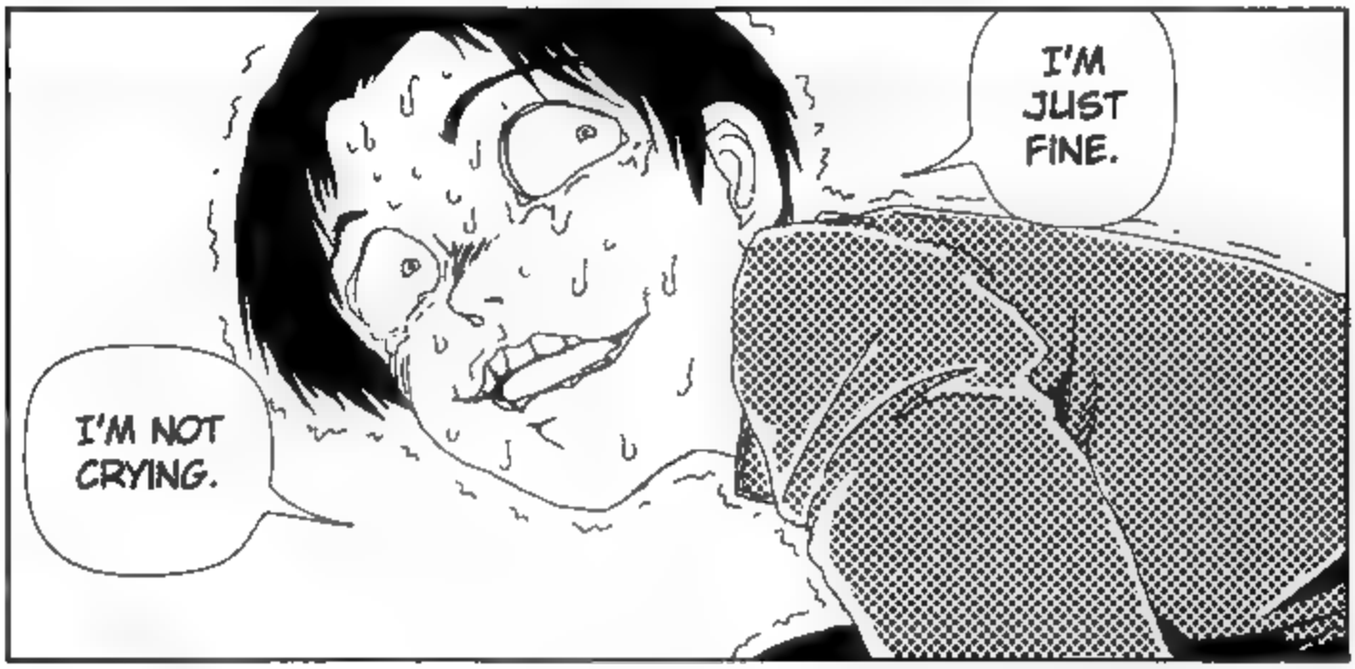



IT'S KIND OF HARD TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT ON THE RELEASE.
SORRY DUUUDE.

10

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NAAAH, I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
HUH? YOU'RE NOT CRYING, ARE YOU BUG?


I'M JUST FINE.
I'M NOT CRYING.


HEY, YOU'RE SUZUKI TAKAKO, FROM CLASS 1.


YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE A TOUGH KID.
HUH?

11



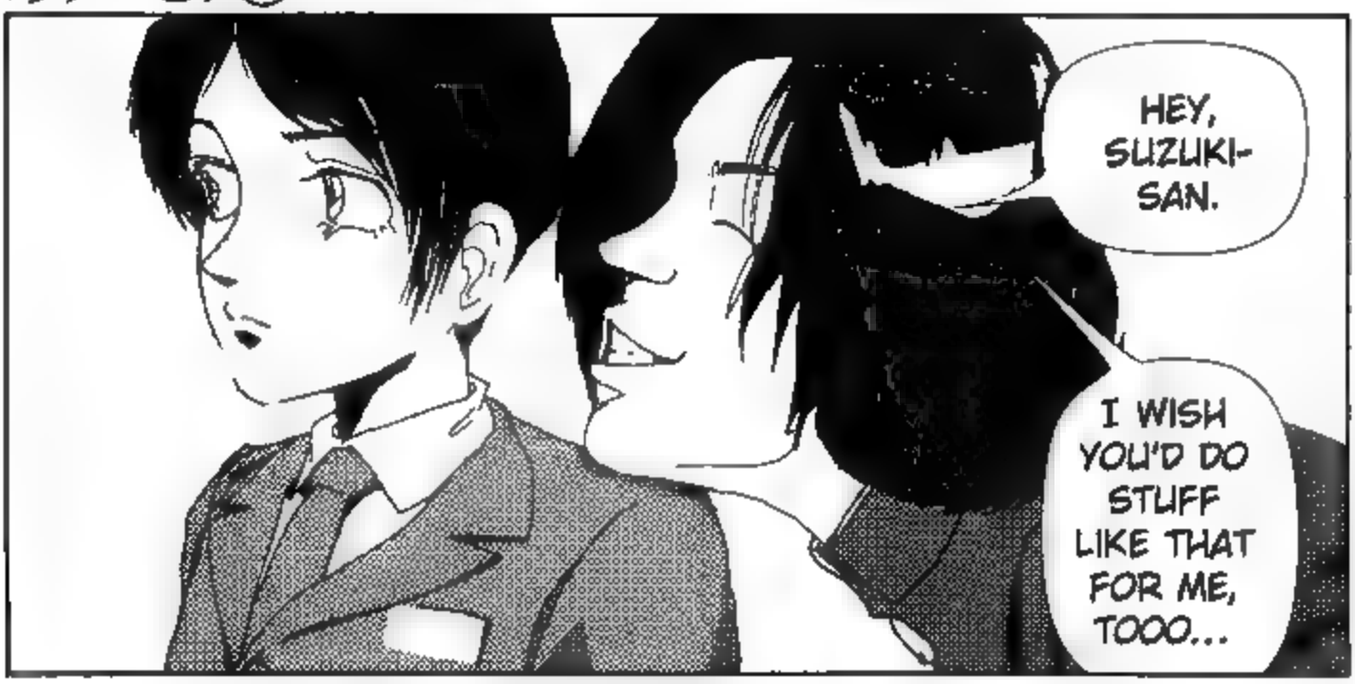

TOTALLY! I SAW THAT SHIT, IT WAS CRAZY
YEAH, THE ONE IN THE PHOTO SUBMISSIONS MAG.
OH, HER?


YEAH WHY NOT?
GOOD COUPLE ?
AND YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT.
AHAAA, AND SHE'S WITH THE BUG.
I WONDER WHAT YOU KIDS WERE DOING UP HERE ON THE ROOF!

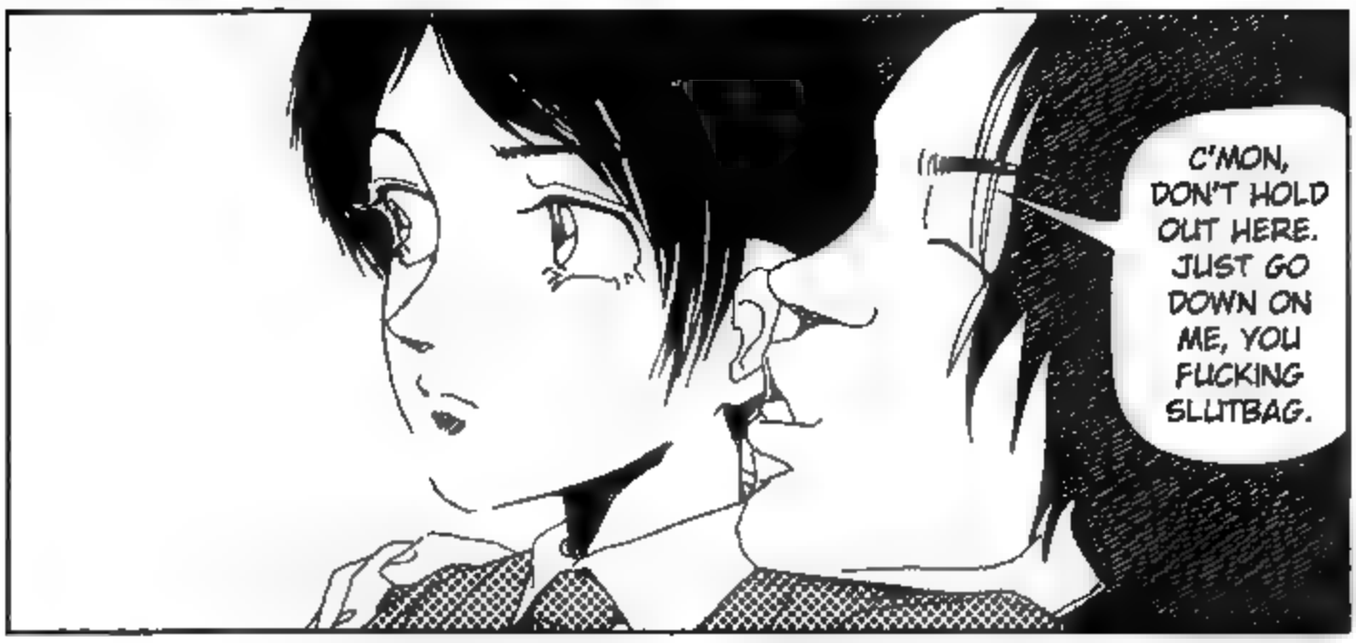
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OH YEAH? LIKE WHAT, HUH? LIKE WHAT?
YOU'RE SO LUCKY, BUG.
LUCKY LUCKY DOG.
MY IMAGINATION'S TAKING OFF! I CAN FLY TWICE AS HIGH, I CAN TOUCH THE SKY!


HEHE, I BET SHE DOES WAY MORE THAN THAT.
SAY, YOU GET HER TO SLOB THE KNOB YET?
NO...

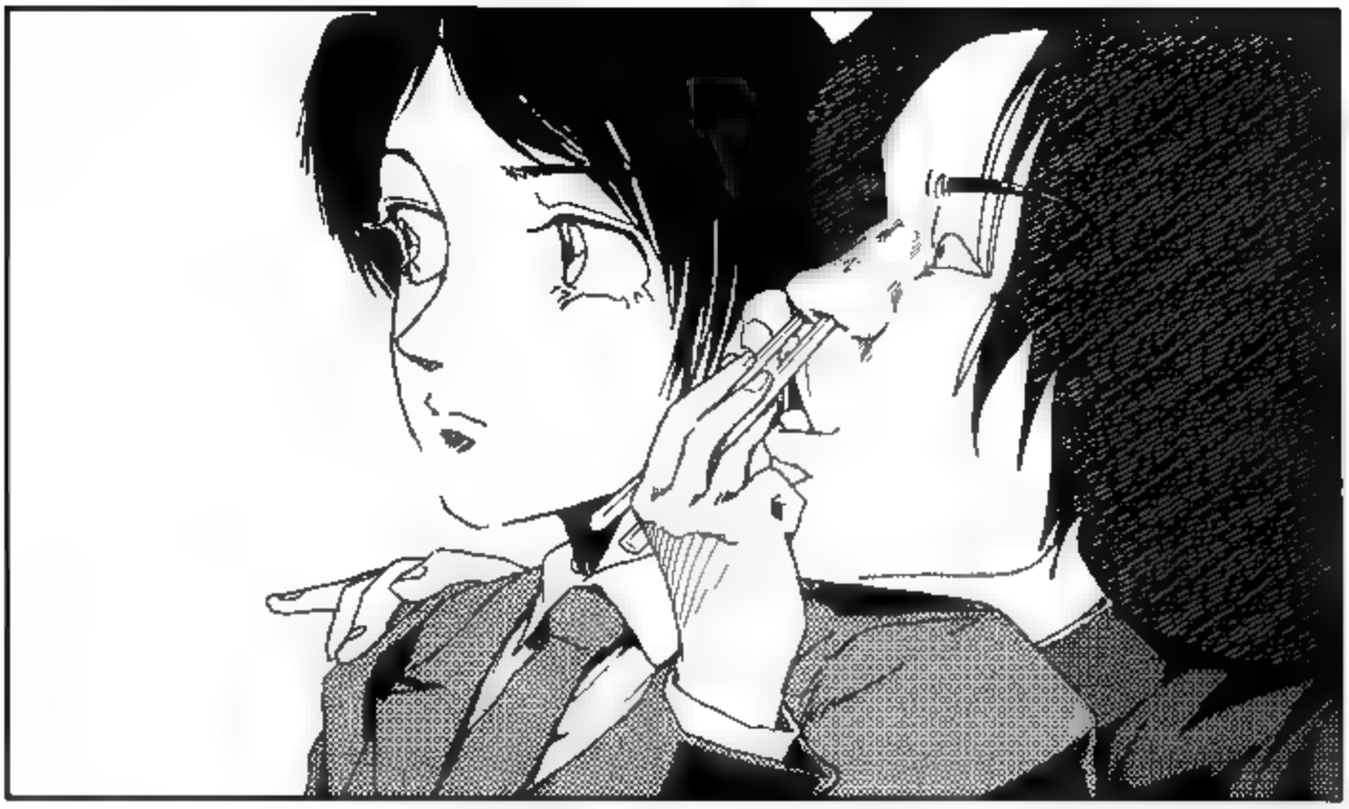

HEY, SUZUKI-SAN.
I WISH YOU'D DO STUFF LIKE THAT FOR ME, TOOO...


YEAH, I BET IT REALLY COMES IN HANDY A LOT.
MAN, ROKU'S GOT LIKE, NO SENSE OF SHAME.


C'MON, DON'T HOLD OUT HERE. JUST GO DOWN ON ME, YOU FUCKING SLUTBAG.

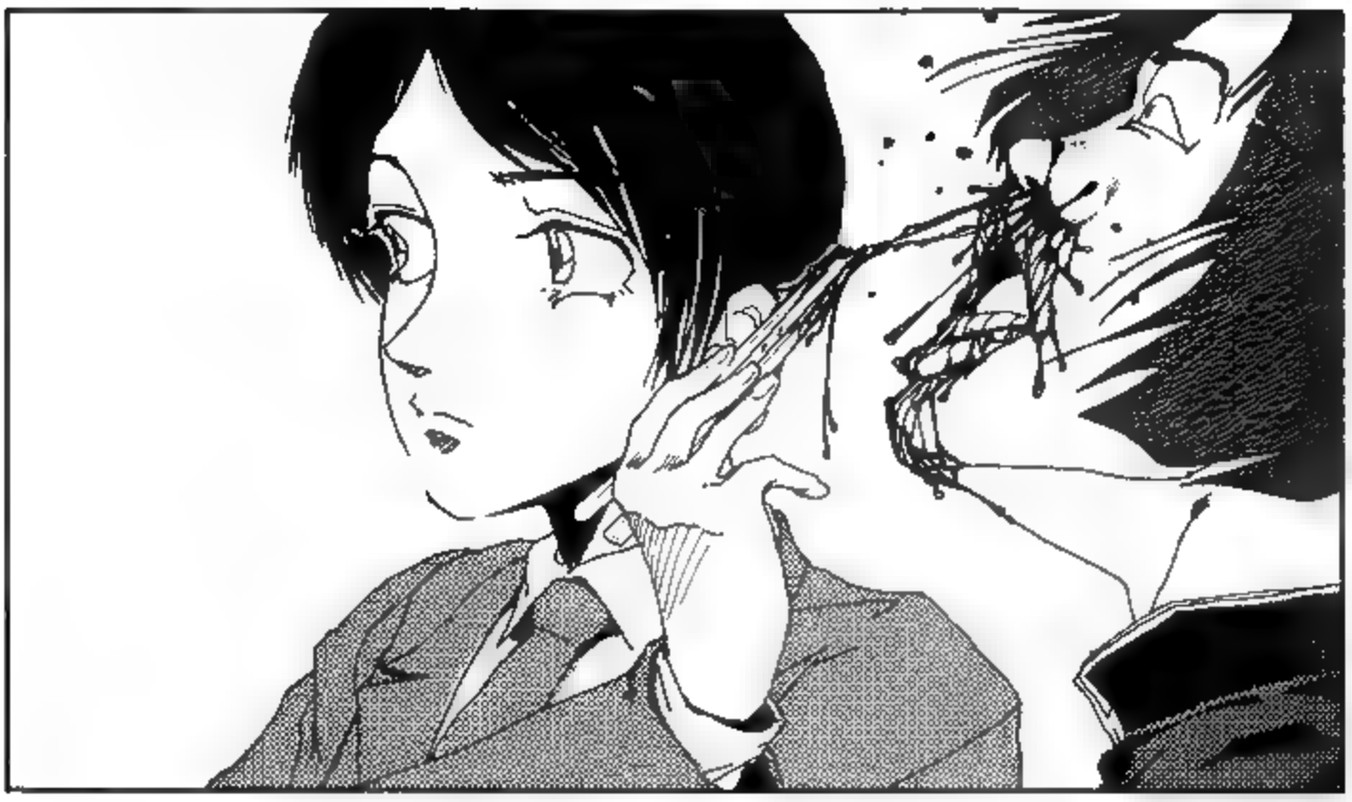
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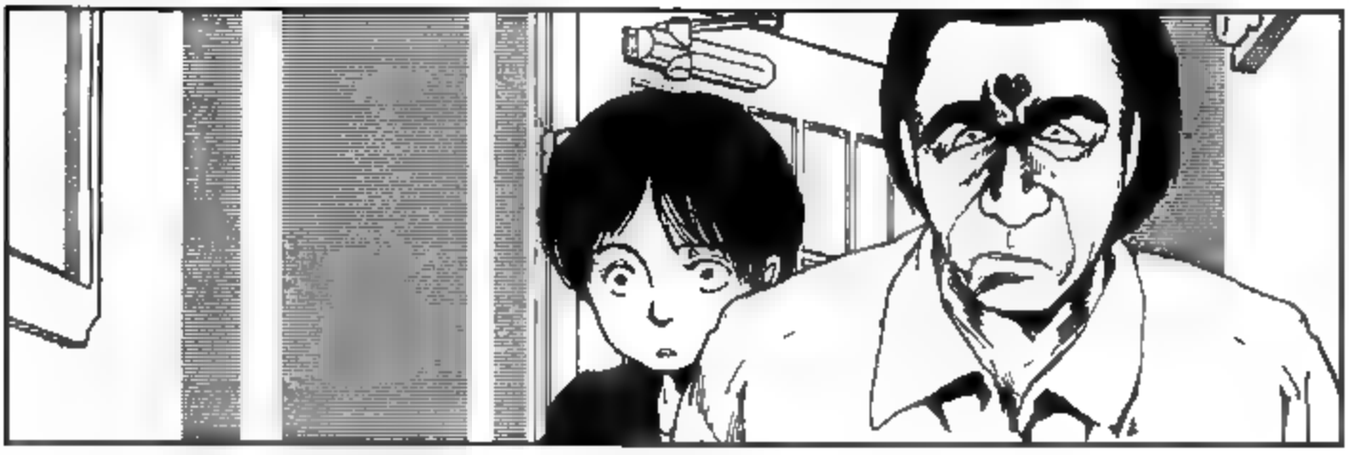
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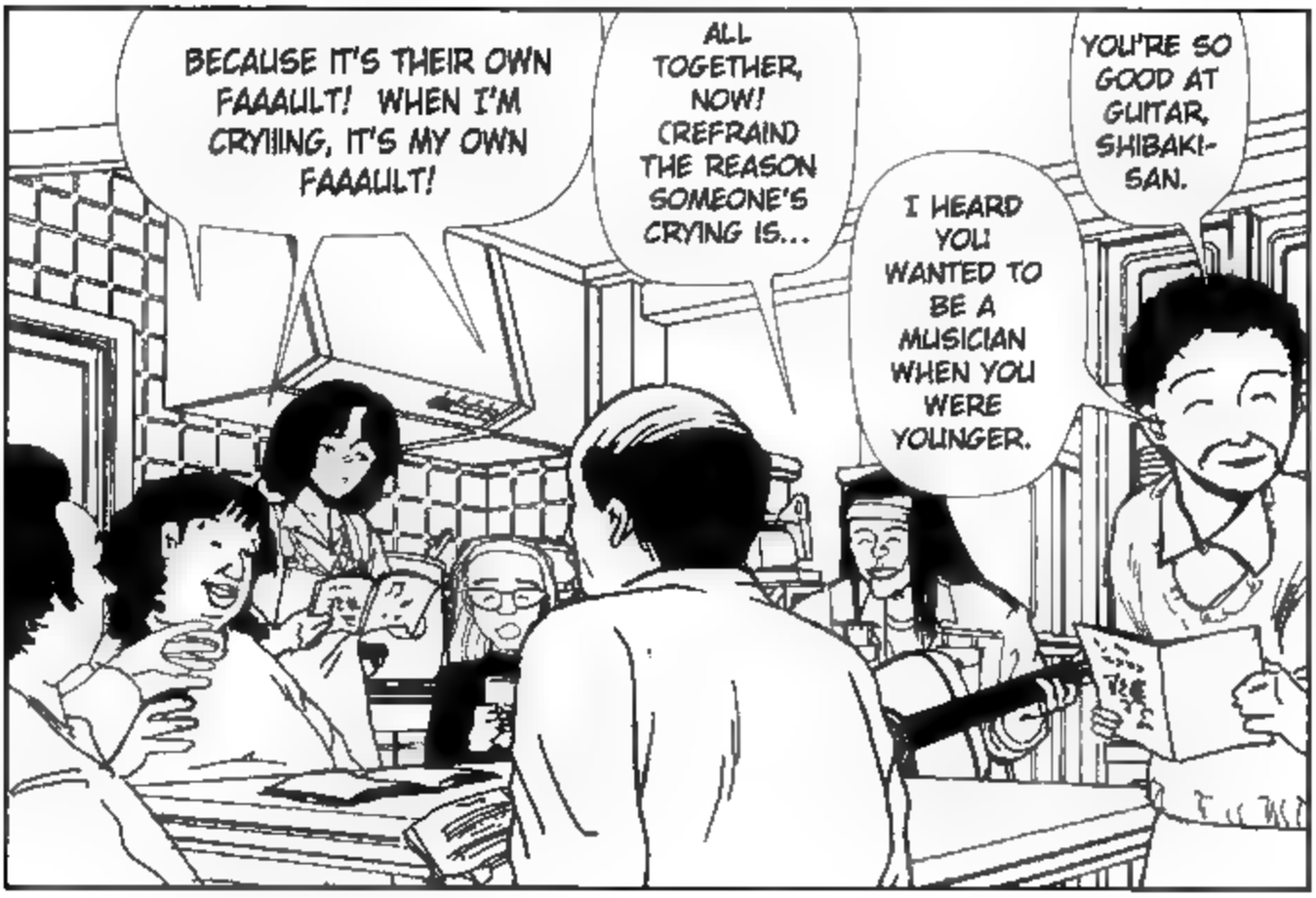

AAAAAAA
AAAAAA


HOW WAS SCHOOL ?
... FINE.


WE'RE HOME.



16


BECAUSE IT'S THEIR OWN FAAAULT! WHEN I'M CRYIING, IT'S MY OWN FAAAULT!
ALL TOGETHER, NOW! (REFRAIN) THE REASON SOMEONE'S CRYING IS...
I HEARD YOU WANTED TO BE A MUSICIAN WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT GUITAR, SHIBAKI-SAN.

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YOU MADE IT SEEM LIKE WE KICKED THEM OUT.
THANKS FOR LETTING US COME OVER!


OH, YOU ALWAYS TRY TO RUIN MY FUN.
WE DIDN'T "LIKE" KICK THEM OUT, WE "DID" KICK THEM OUT.

17





18



THEY ACCUSE TAKAKO 37

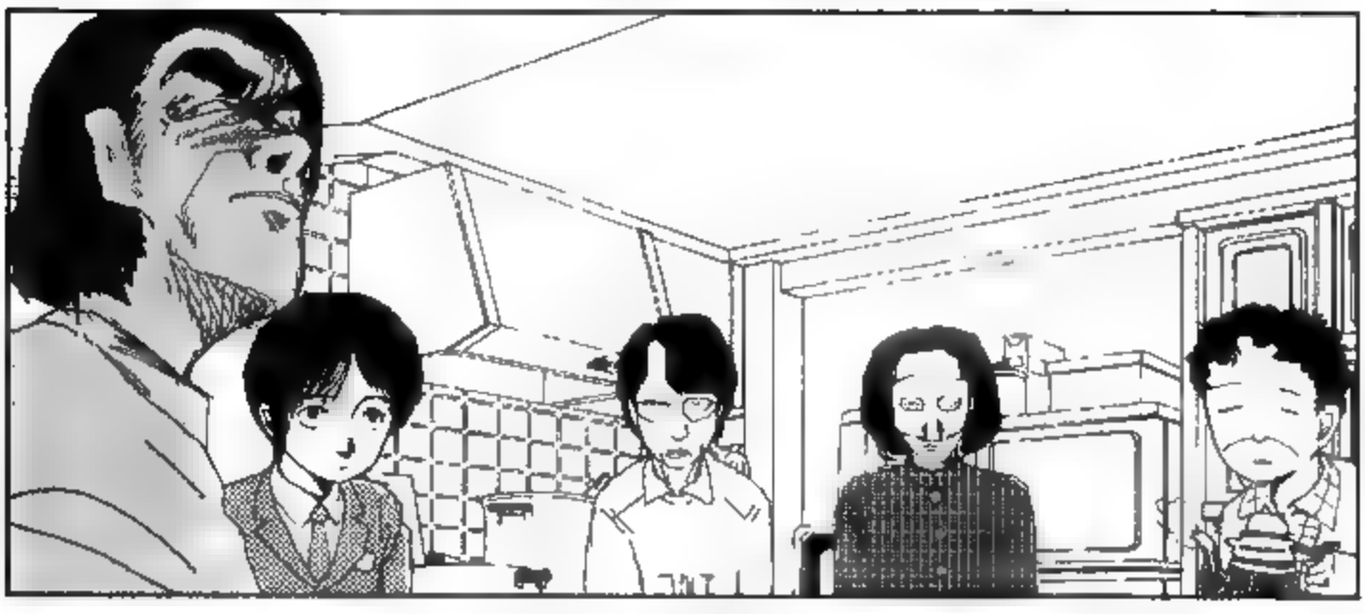


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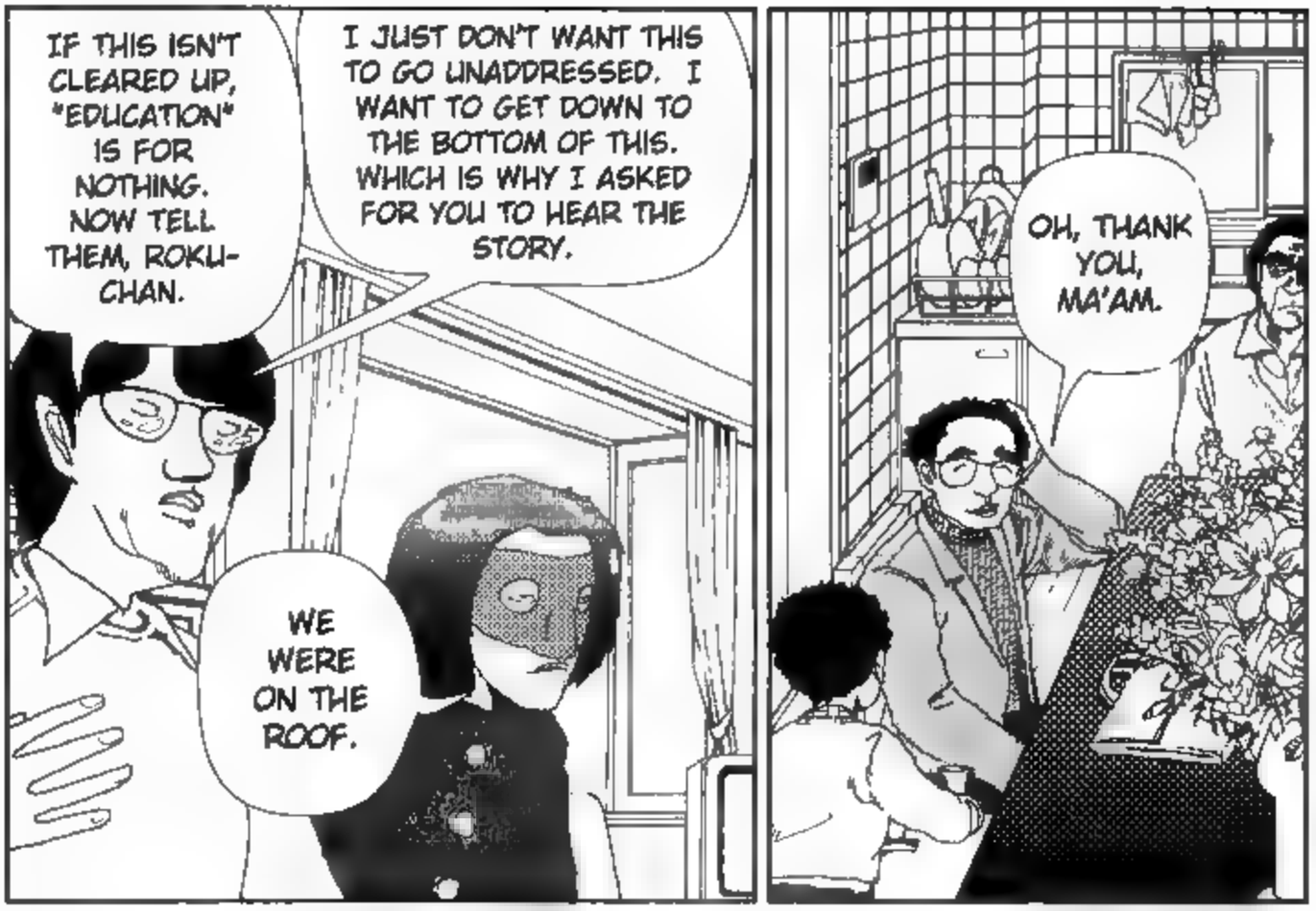
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MAY I COME IN?



2


THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAID THIS WAS MORE PRESSING. THAT'S THE LIFE OF A CIVIL SERVANT FOR YOU...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE. I COULDN'T GET OUT OF THE FACULTY MEETING EARLY.


IF THIS ISN'T CLEARED UP, "EDUCATION" IS FOR NOTHING. NOW TELL THEM, ROKU-CHAN.
I JUST DON'T WANT THIS TO GO UNADDRESSED. I WANT TO GET DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. WHICH IS WHY I ASKED FOR YOU TO HEAR THE STORY.
WE WERE ON THE ROOF.
OH, THANK YOU, MA'AM.

3


MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE WE WERE BEING NOISY AND RAUCOUS, I DUNNO. BUT I TRIED TO DODGE, AND THEN SHE TOOK THE CHOPSTICKS IN HER HAND AND...
SO WHEN I TRIED TO WARN HER, SHE GOT ALL MAD FOR SOME REASON...
AND SUZUKI-SAN WAS SITTING UP NEAR THE WATER TOWER. I THOUGHT THAT LOOKED DANGEROUS.


ROKU-CHAN WAS SO INJURED BY THIS STUNT THAT HE HAS TO WEAR THIS FACE PROTECTOR AT ALL TIMES.
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING. SHOVING CHOPSTICKS UP ANOTHER PERSON'S NOSTRILS! THIS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, IN MY MIND.


ARE YOU SAYING THAT ROKU-CHAN'S INJURIES ARE NOTHING SERIOUS?!!
NO NO NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT, NOT AT ALL. I'M JUST SPEAKING OF THE CAUSE...
WELL, CONSIDERING THERE WAS SOME MISCHIEF GOING ON, AND IT WAS A LAPSE IN JUDGMENT...
THE SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME INSURANCE MONEY, AS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...


NO, THEY WERE BULLYING THE BUG, WHICH I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT, BUT THEN THEY STARTED HARASSING ME, SO I DID IT.
IS THAT RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED, TAKAKO?


OH NO, I DON'T THINK SHE'S SAYING THAT AT ALL. I THINK SHE MEANS...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS IS COMPLETELY MY ROKU-CHAN'S FAULT?


YOU SEE, AS LONG AS WE CLASSIFY THIS AS AN ACCIDENT, WE CAN HEAR EVERYONE'S SIDE OF IT FAIRLY...
MY DAUGHTER IS NOT THE KIND OF GIRL WHO WOULD STICK HER CHOPSTICKS UP ANOTHER PERSON'S NOSE.

5


TAKAMI-SAN, P-PLEASE SETTLE DOWN.
WE ARE HAVING A CALM, RATIONAL DISCUSSION.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT MY DEAR, GENTLE ROKU-CHAN SHOULD JUST BEAR DOWN AND KNUCKLE UNDER TO THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE?!
MY SON IS THE VICTIM HERE! HE WAS BRUTALIZED !!

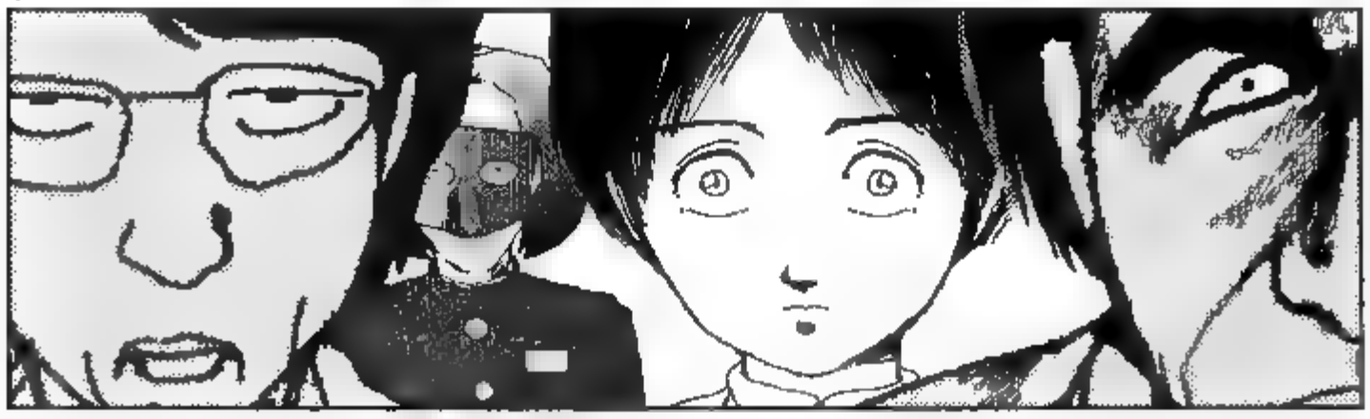

AND I'VE HEARD *PLENTY* ABOUT THE SUZUKIS' DAUGHTER.
UMM, THAT ISN'T REALLY ...
SHE'S SURROUNDED BY FILTHY RUMORS, AND HAS MANY ABSENCES AT SCHOOL.
WE HAVE HEARD THEM.
HUH?
ESPECIALLY THE BOY WHO WAS BEING PICKED ON.
THIS DISCUSSION IS POINTLESS WITHOUT HEARING THE WORD OF THE OTHER STUDENTS ON THE ROOF.
ALL THE BOYS INVOLVED CAME TO THE FACULTY ROOM TO SPEAK.
AS A MATTER OF FACT,
6
IT MATCHES UP WITH WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM TAKAMI-KUN HERE.
I THINK THAT'S WHY SHE GOT MAD, TOO...
YEAH, IT'S TRUE THAT WE WERE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE AND FUSS.


I'M GOING TO FIGHT THIS.
I KNOW A LAW EXPERT, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW.
UH, THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.
I DON'T THINK ANY MORE OF THIS DEBATE WILL BE FRUITFUL...
OF COURSE, IT IS JUST CHILDREN MAKING EXCUSES.
WHY DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? THAT DOESN'T SOUND FAIR.
IT'S NOT THAT WE DIDN'T LISTEN TO HIM. WE JUST HAD TROUBLE TRACKING DOWN BUG... I MEAN, KAKIBARA-KUN.
WE'LL GET THAT SETTLED SOON, THOUGH. .
DID YOU HEAR BUG'S SIDE?
HANG ON, DEAR. THE ADULTS ARE TALKING NOW; WAIT YOUR TURN.
J-JUST A MOMENT, YOU'VE GOT THIS WRONG.
THE SCHOOL JUST WANTS TO MEDIATE AND SETTLE THIS FAIRLY...
YOU'RE TRYING TO CATEGORIZE THIS AS AN ACCIDENT AND IGNORE THE TRUTH!!
SENSEI! JUST WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, SENSEI?!
7
SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ASK THE BULLIED STUDENT WHAT HAPPENED.

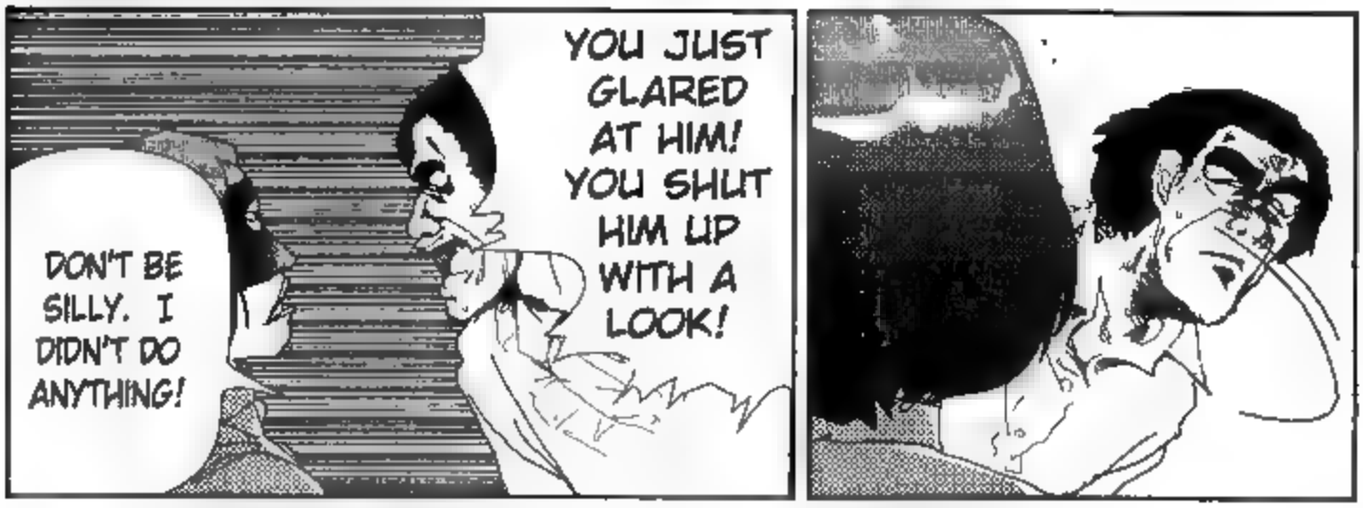



I WASN'T BEING BULLIED, OR ANYTHING ...
...WE WERE JUST JOKING AROUND...

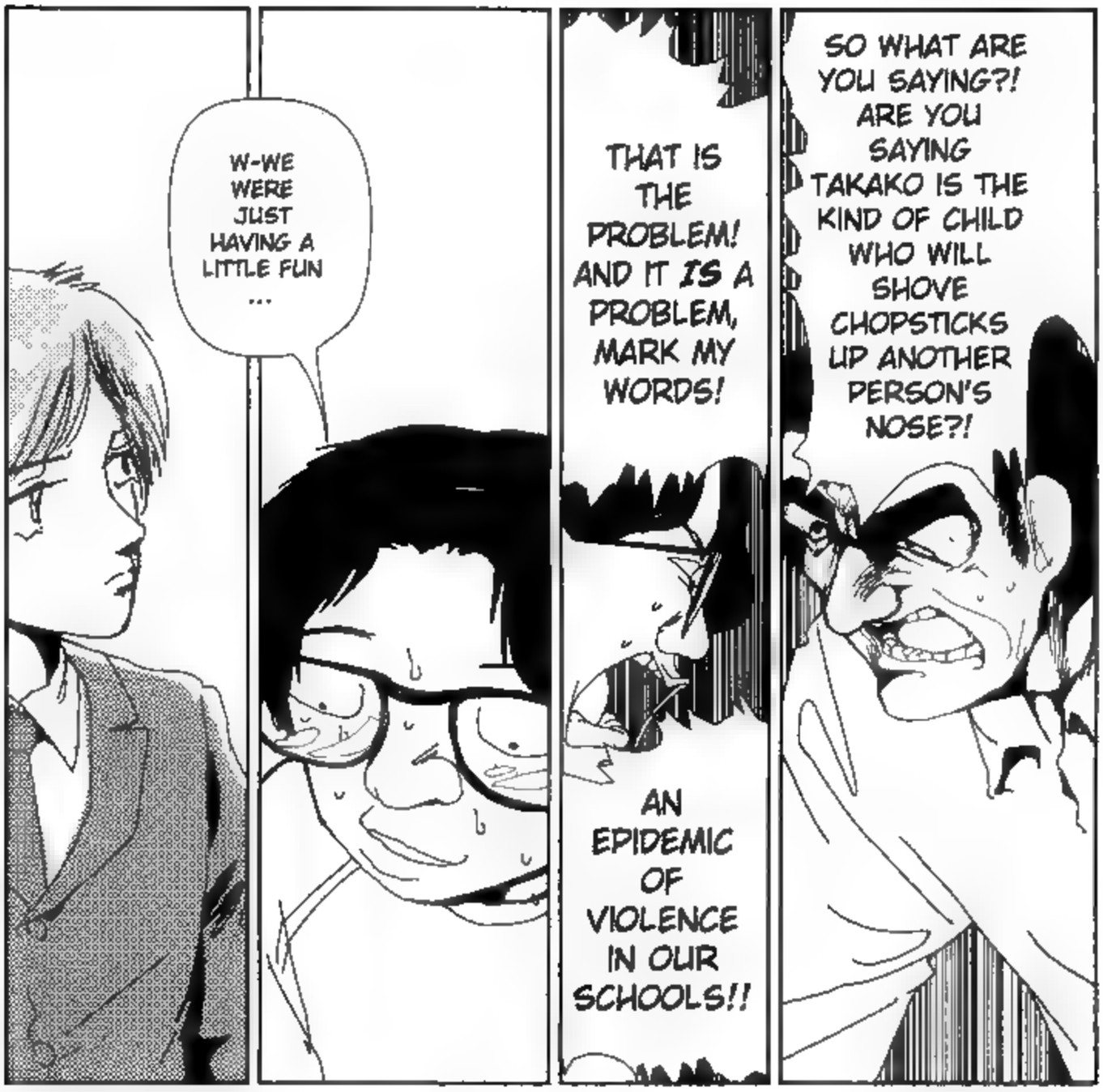
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...NO... I JUST ...
ARE THEY THREATENING YOU?! IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?! ARE THEY THREATENING YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SAY YOU'RE BEING BULLIED?!


DON'T BE SILLY. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
YOU JUST GLARED AT HIM! YOU SHUT HIM UP WITH A LOOK!

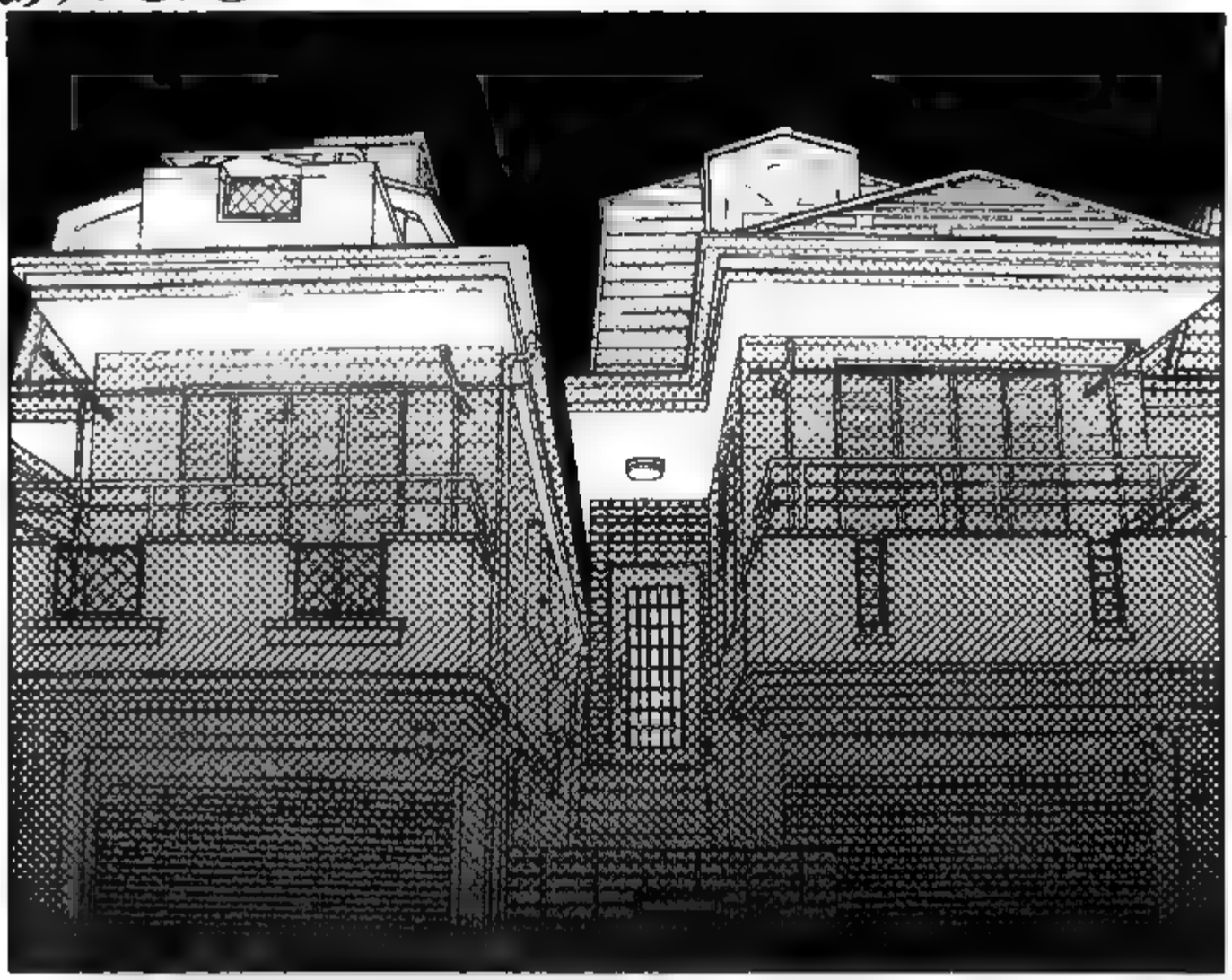

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WE WERE JUST MESSING AROUND ...
I'M EASY TO PLAY JOKES ON, SO PEOPLE THINK I GET BULLIED...
BUT WE'RE REALLY FRIENDS. WE'RE JUST MESSING AROUND...


W-WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN ...
THAT IS THE PROBLEM! AND IT IS A PROBLEM, MARK MY WORDS!
AN EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS!!
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! ARE YOU SAYING TAKAKO IS THE KIND OF CHILD WHO WILL SHOVE CHOPSTICKS UP ANOTHER PERSON'S NOSE?!

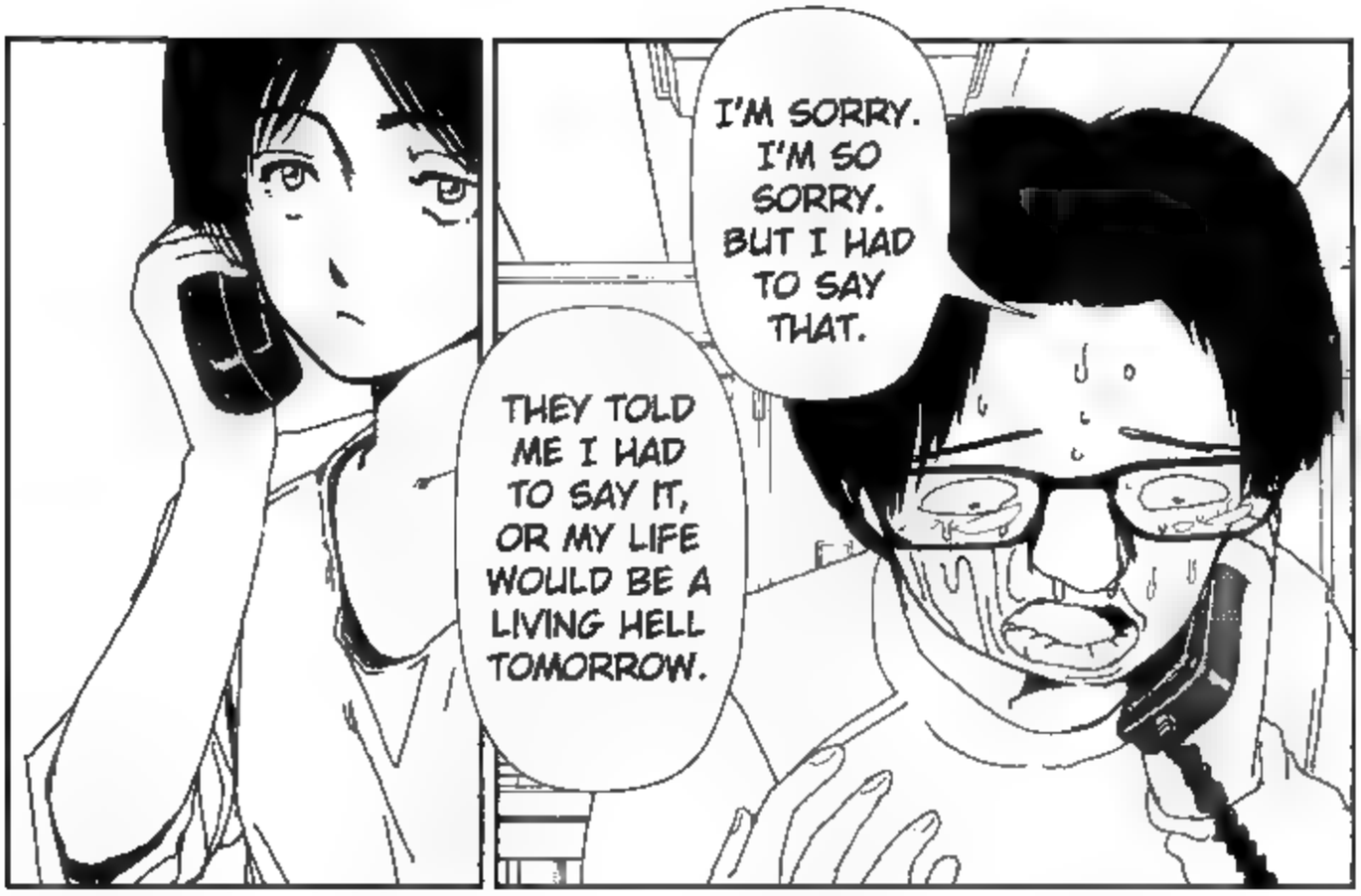
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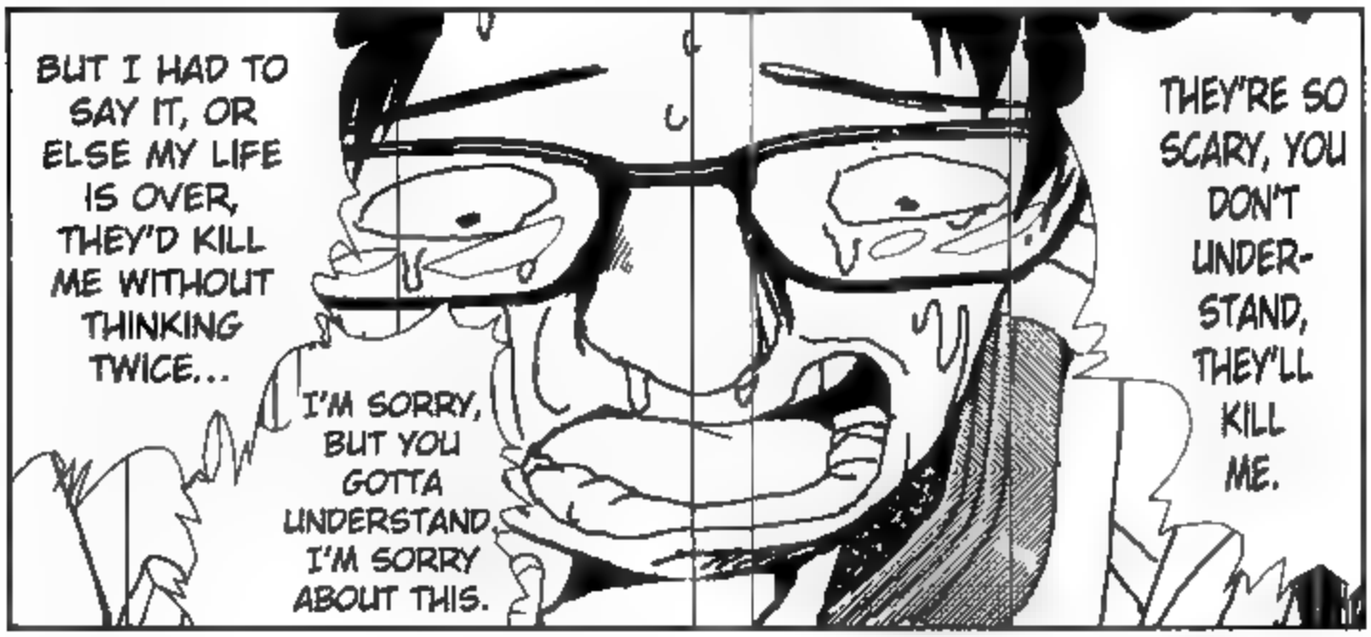

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! AN ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE BOYS WERE BOYS, AND THEY WERE PLAYING AROUND. ALL RIGHT?!
THE SCHOOL WILL PAY FOR TAKAMI-KUN'S TREATMENT. WE'LL JUST BLAME IN ON A LACK OF SUPERVISION.
Y-YOU SEE, THERE IS NO PROBLEM HERE.

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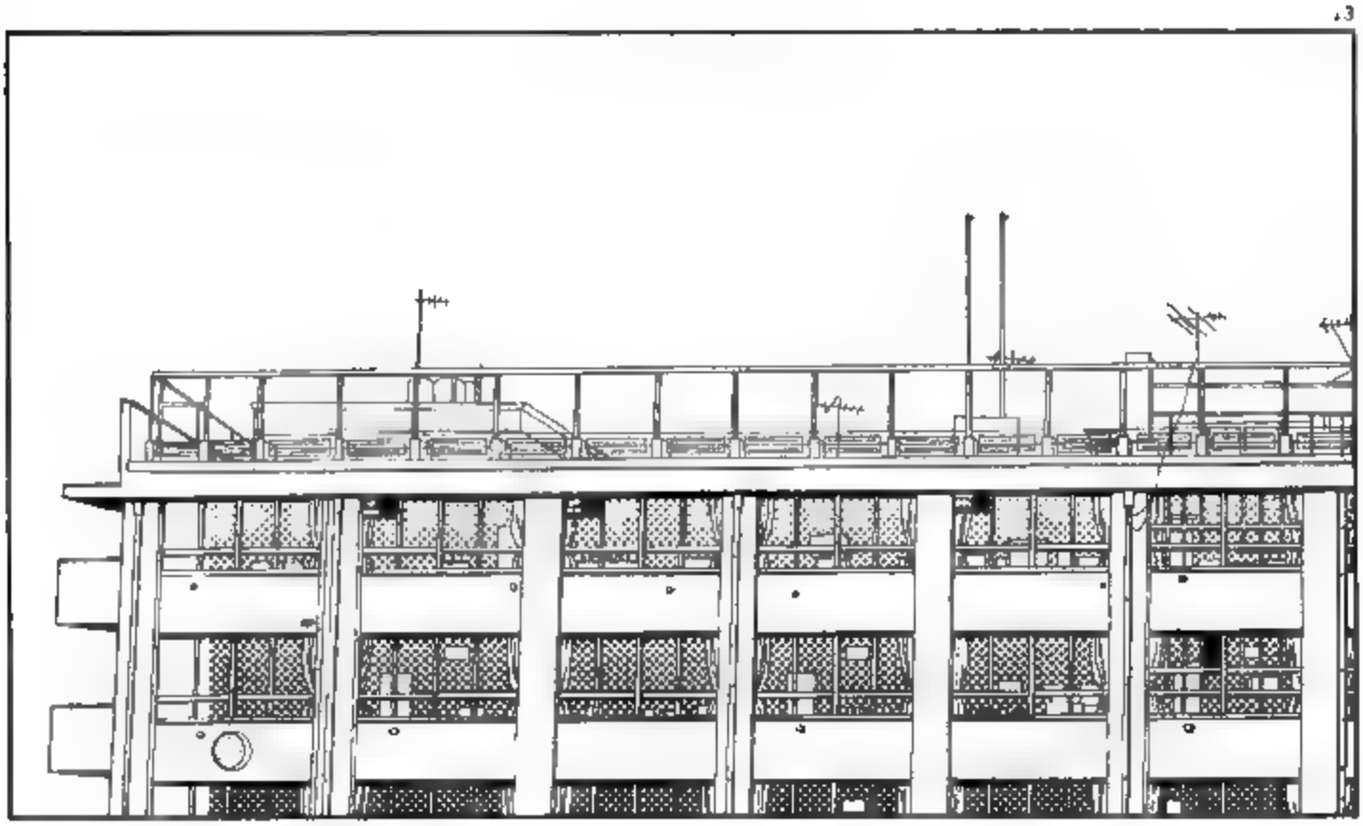

I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. BUT I HAD TO SAY THAT.
THEY TOLD ME I HAD TO SAY IT, OR MY LIFE WOULD BE A LIVING HELL TOMORROW.

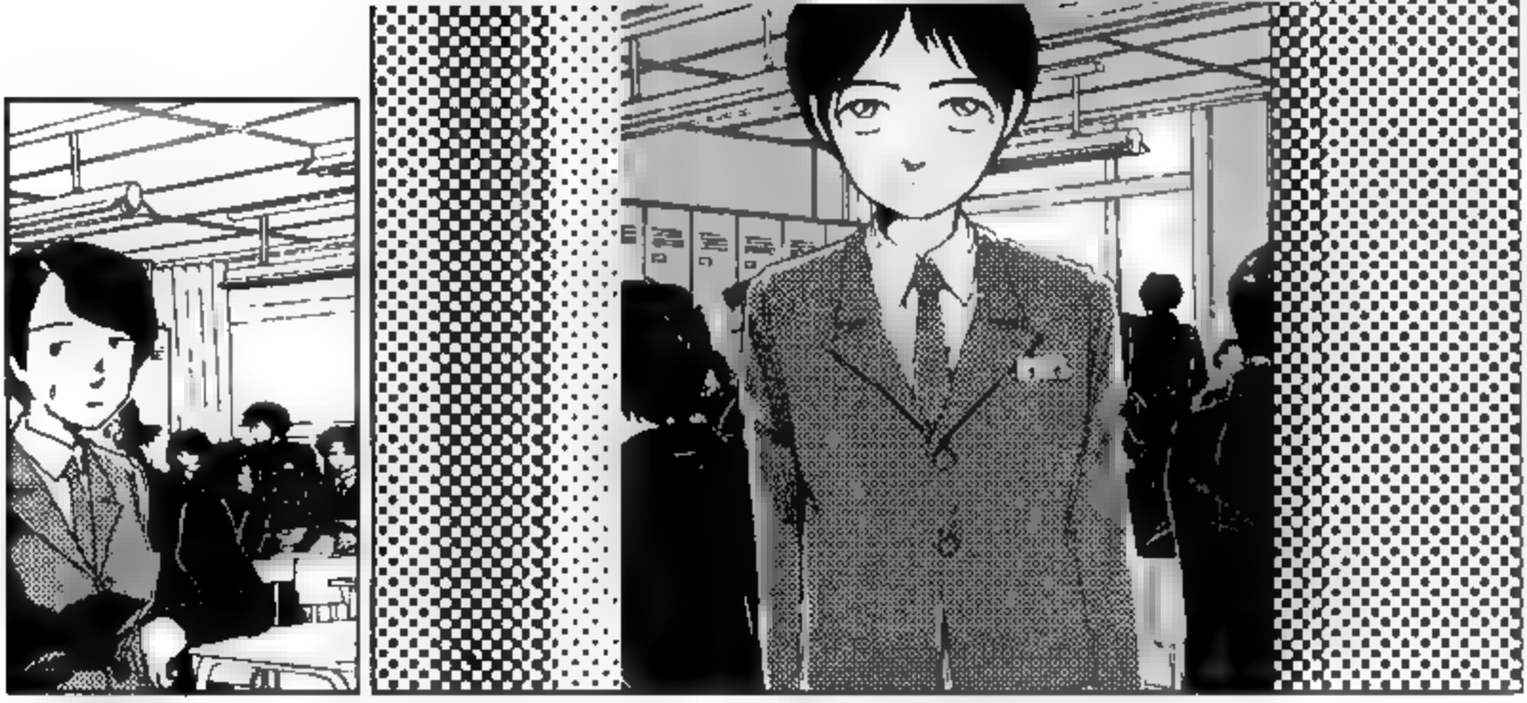

BUT I HAD TO SAY IT, OR ELSE MY LIFE IS OVER, THEY'D KILL ME WITHOUT THINKING TWICE...
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND, I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
THEY'RE SO SCARY, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND, THEY'LL KILL ME.

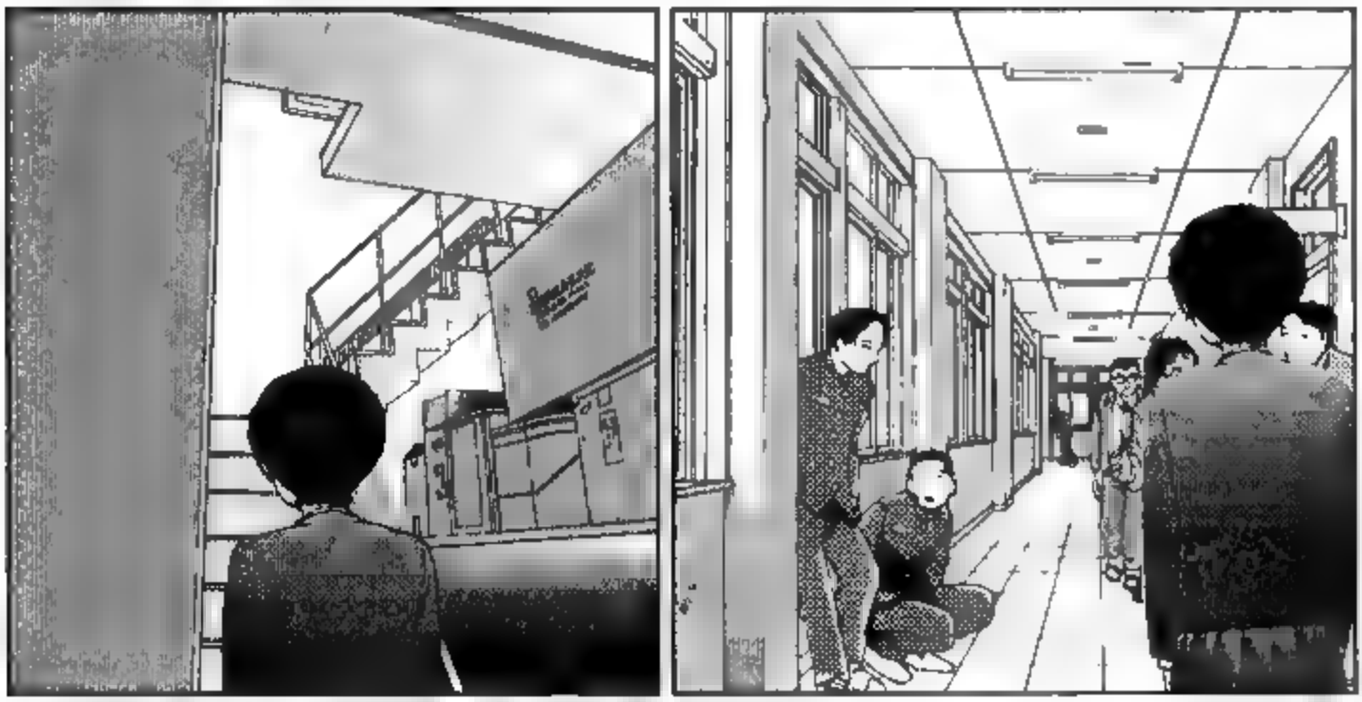
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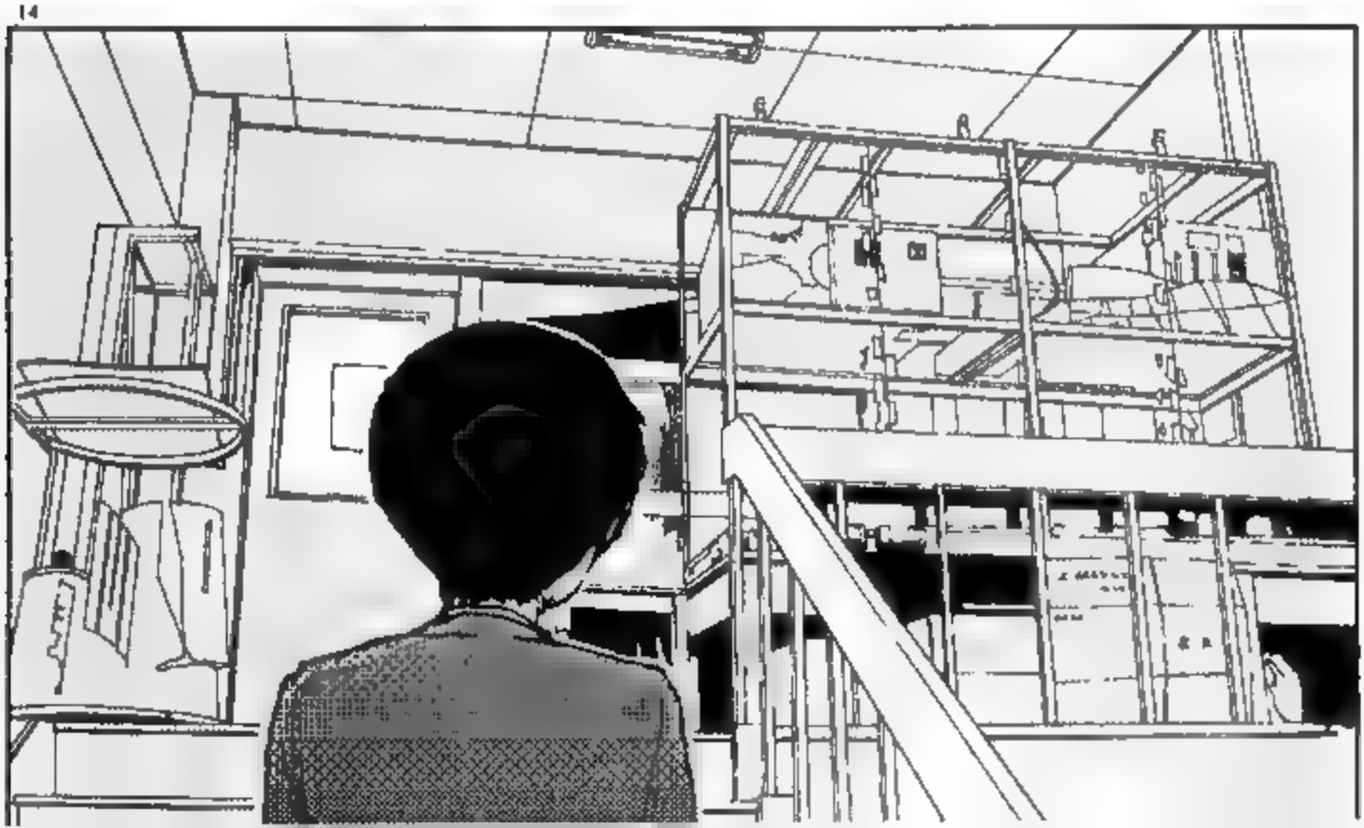

WHO WAS THAT?
JUST A PRANK CALL.
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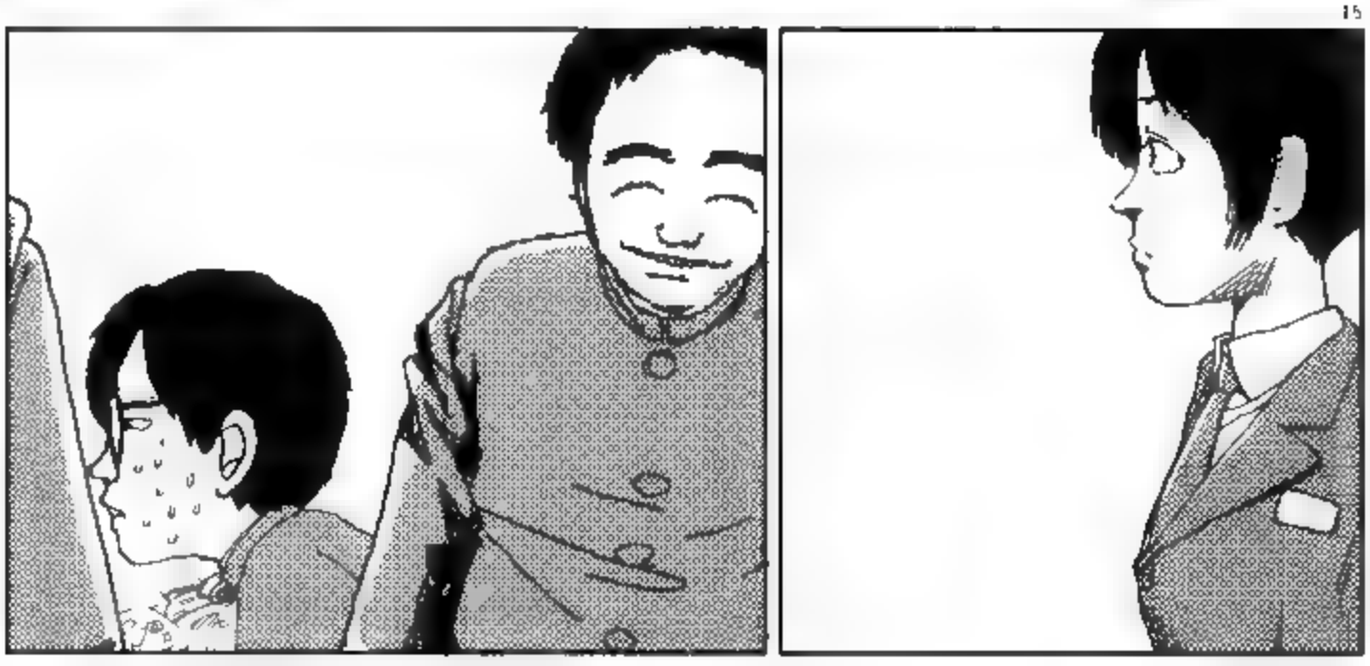


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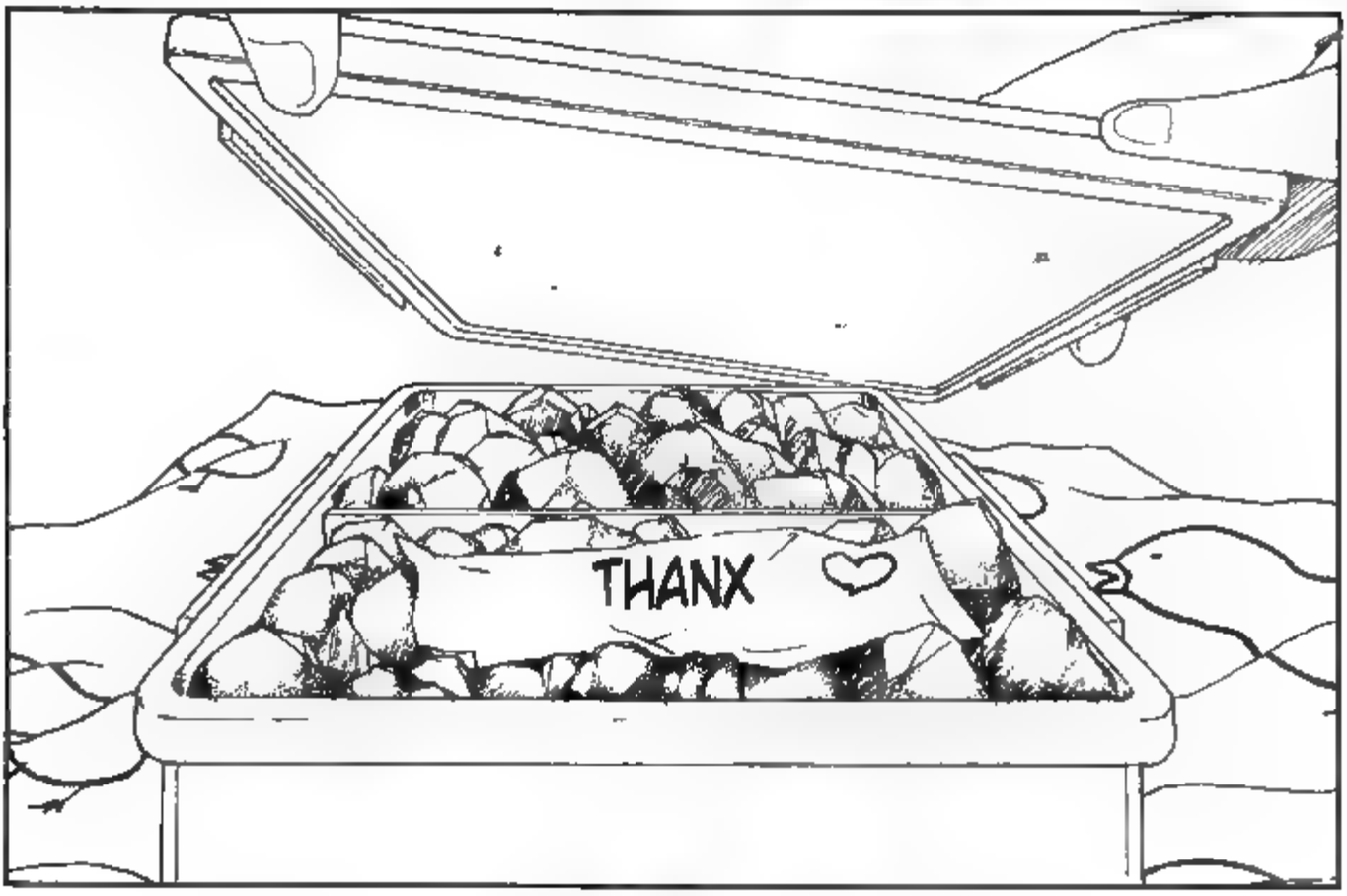



Rooftop
Off
Limits
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ADULTS ALWAYS GOTTA STEAL THE KIDS' PLAYGROUND.
SUCKS, HUH?
SORRY, ROOF'S OFF LIMITS.

15

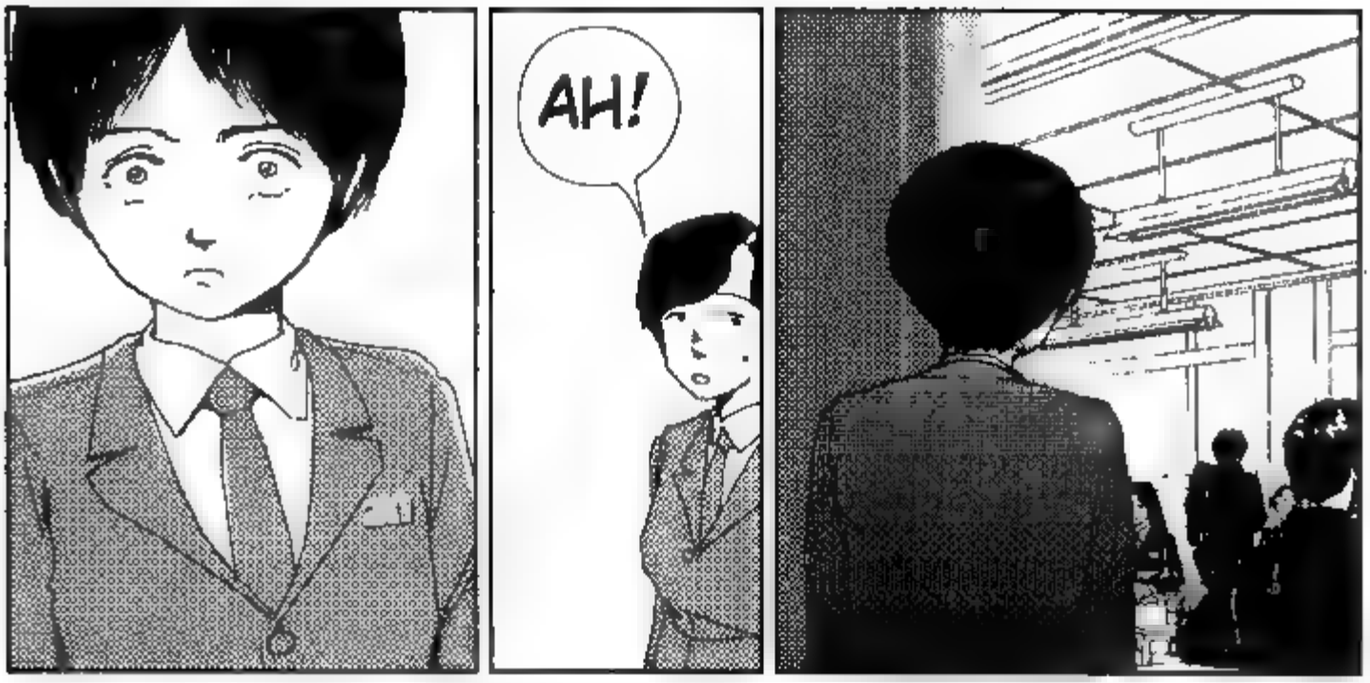


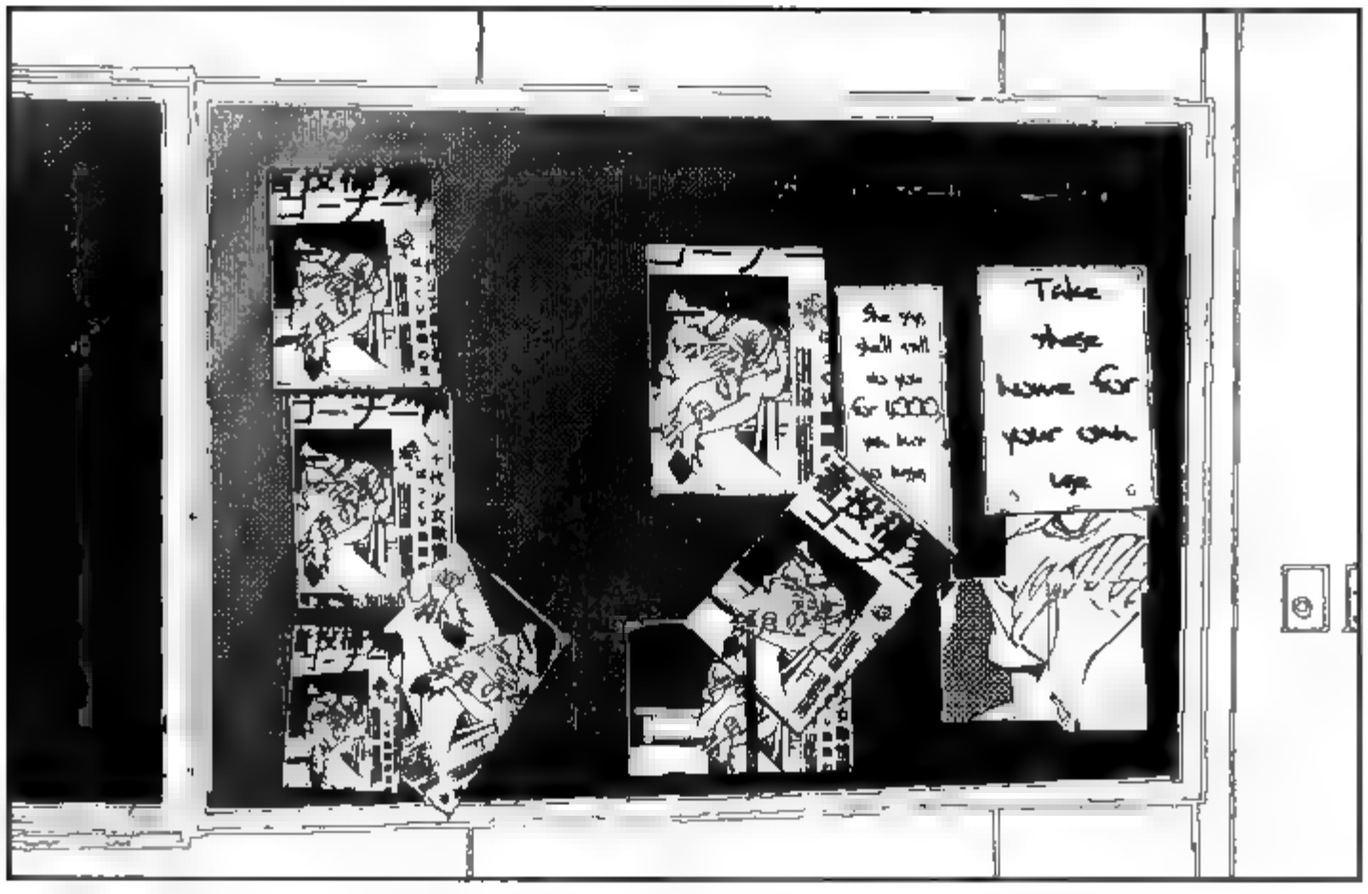




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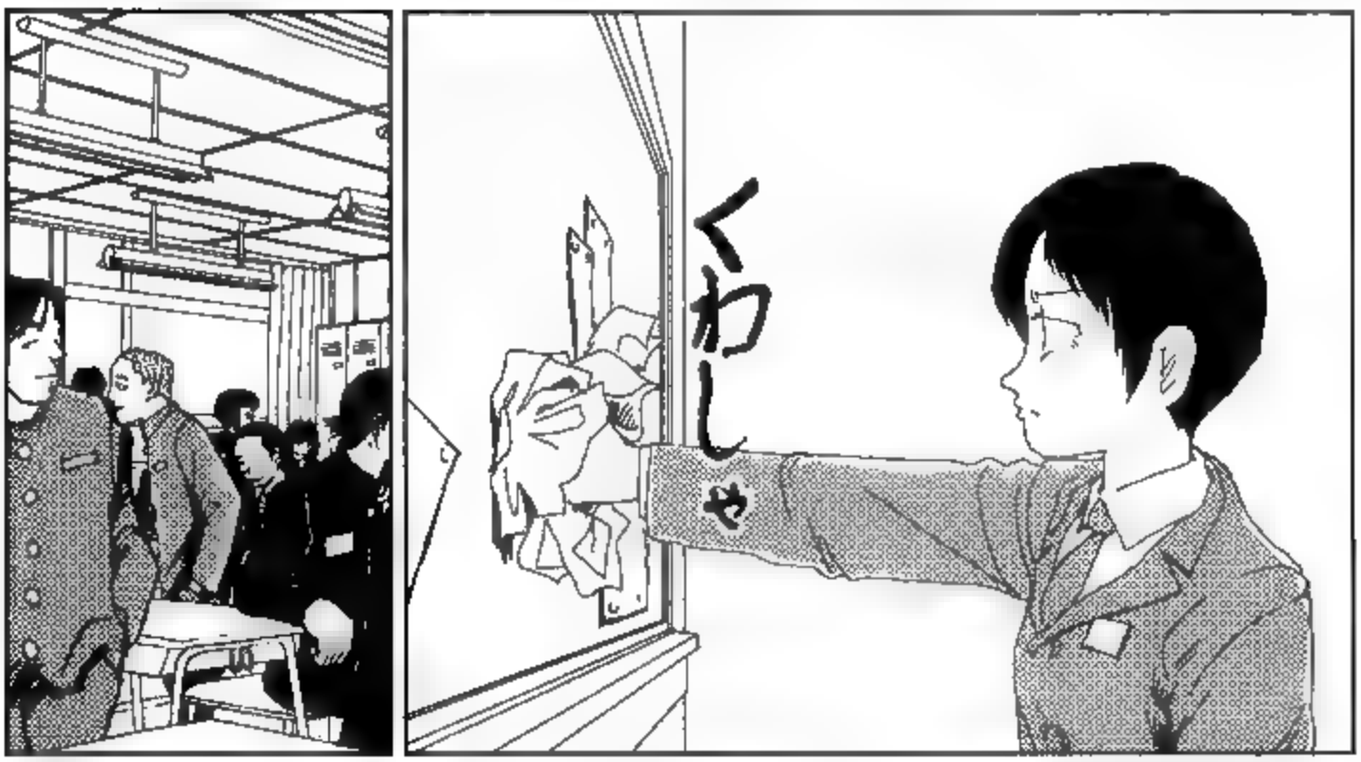




17







18



SCANNED AND EDITED BY GATSU

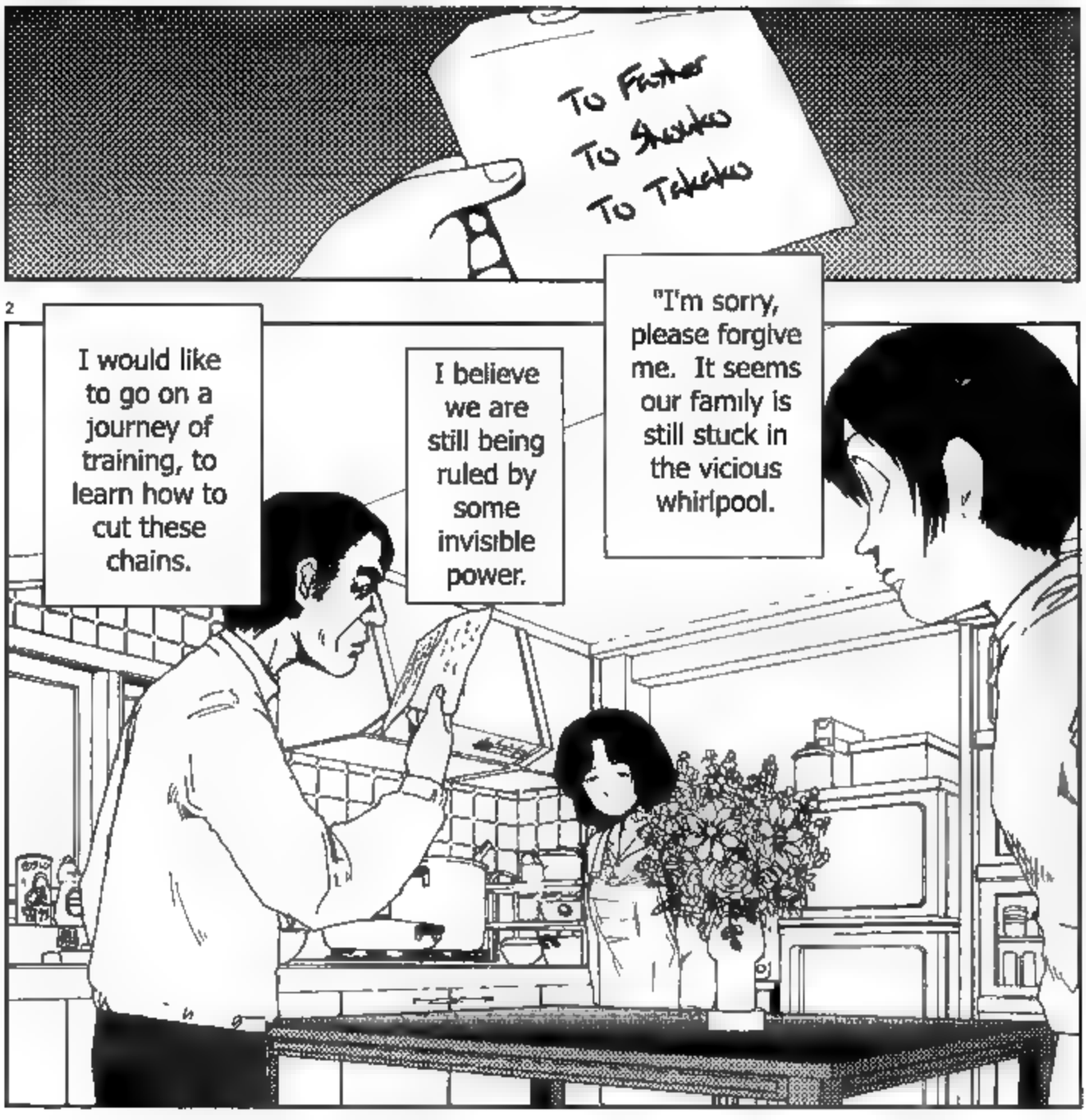
THEHAWKS.ORG

TRANSLATED BY STEPHEN PAUL



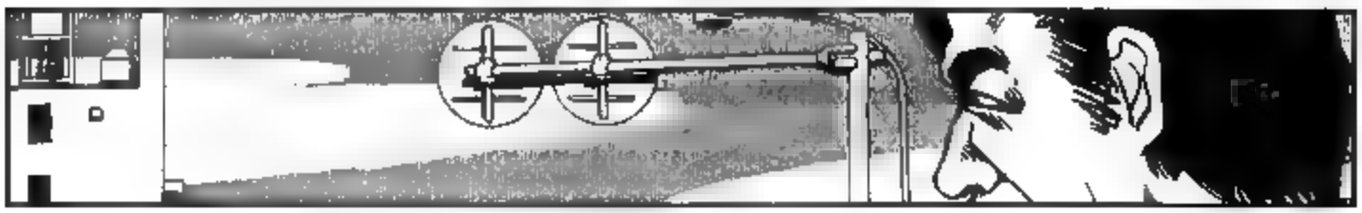
MOM DISAPPEARS


One day,
Mom just
disappeared.


To Fusher
To Sueko
To Takeko
2
I would like to go on a journey of training, to learn how to cut these chains.
I believe we are still being ruled by some invisible power.
"I'm sorry, please forgive me. It seems our family is still stuck in the vicious whirlpool.

ありがとう④

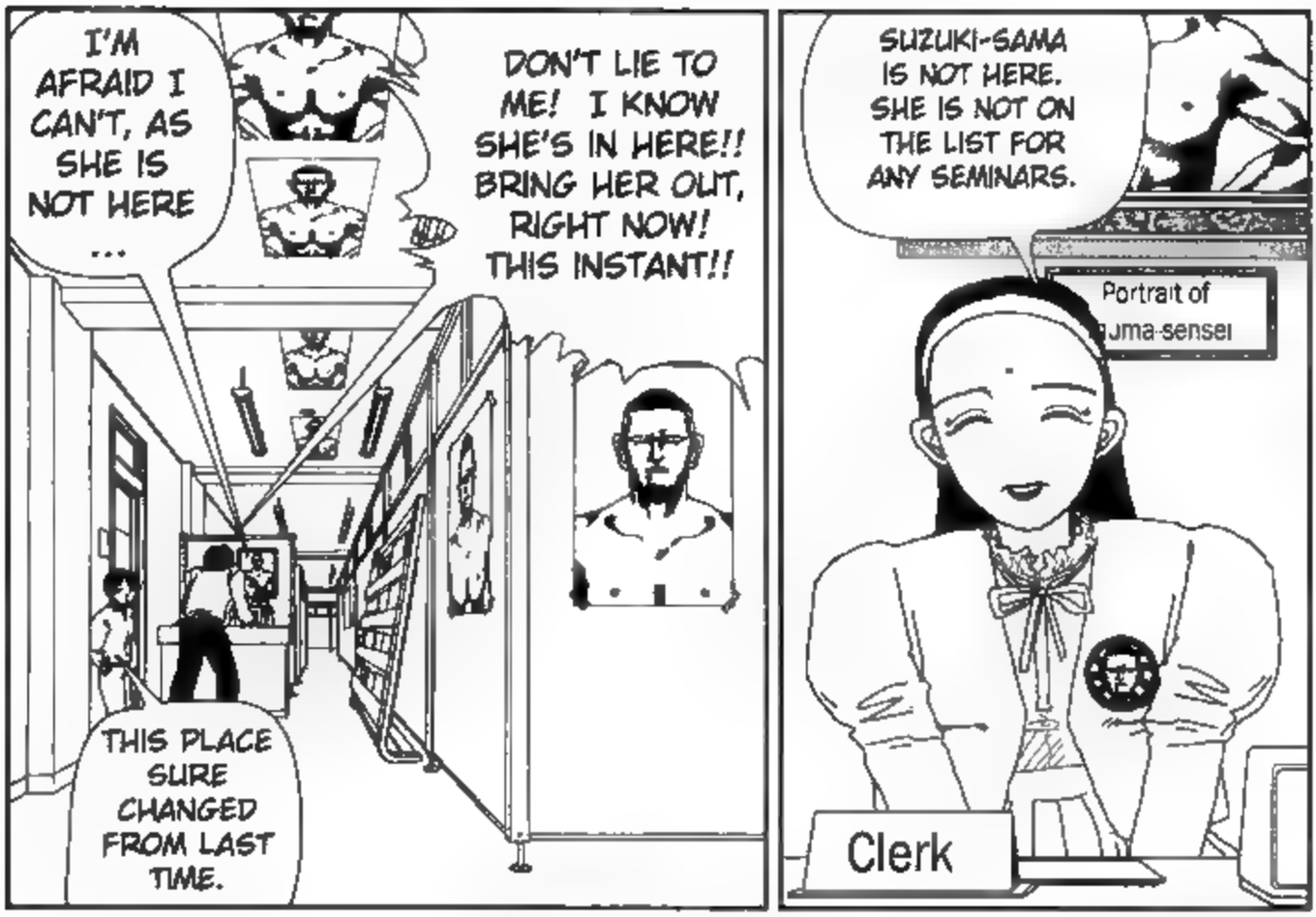

Do not look for me. This is goodbye for some time."

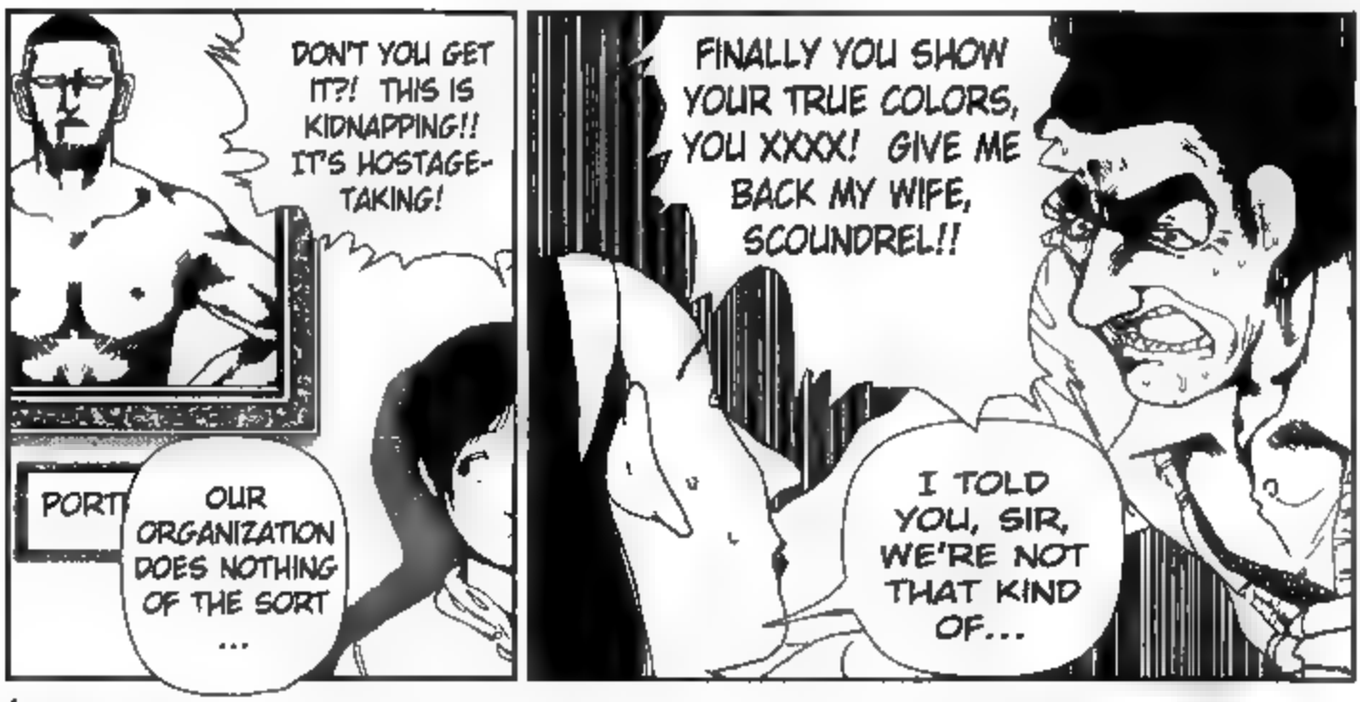




3


THIS WAS THE PLACE, RIGHT?
THE LAST TIME HERE, IT WAS.


I'M AFRAID I CAN'T, AS SHE IS NOT HERE ...
DON'T LIE TO ME! I KNOW SHE'S IN HERE!! BRING HER OUT, RIGHT NOW! THIS INSTANT!!
THIS PLACE SURE CHANGED FROM LAST TIME.
SUZUKI-SAMA IS NOT HERE. SHE IS NOT ON THE LIST FOR ANY SEMINARS.
Portrait of Ajima-sensei
Clerk


DON'T YOU GET IT?! THIS IS KIDNAPPING!! IT'S HOSTAGE-TAKING!
PORT
OUR ORGANIZATION DOES NOTHING OF THE SORT ...
FINALLY YOU SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS, YOU XXXX! GIVE ME BACK MY WIFE, SCOUNDREL!!
I TOLD YOU, SIR, WE'RE NOT THAT KIND OF...

4

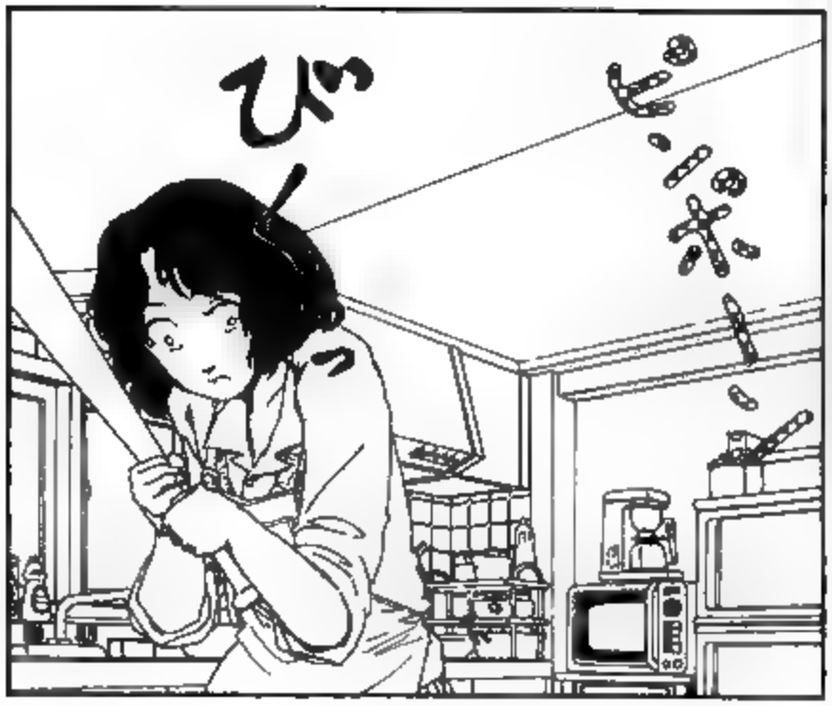

AH...
HONEY!! I KNOW YOU'RE AROUND HERE, HONEY!!


WHERE ARE YOU, CAN YOU HEAR ME?! IT'S ME!!
IF YOU HEAR ME, GIVE ME A RESPONSE, HONEY!!
EMERGENCY


YOU MAY TRUST ME WHEN I SAY WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS INCIDENT.
WE ARE CONCERNED FOR YOUR WIFE'S WELL-BEING AS WELL, AND ARE LEADING OUR OWN INVESTIGATION INTO HER WHEREABOUTS.

5

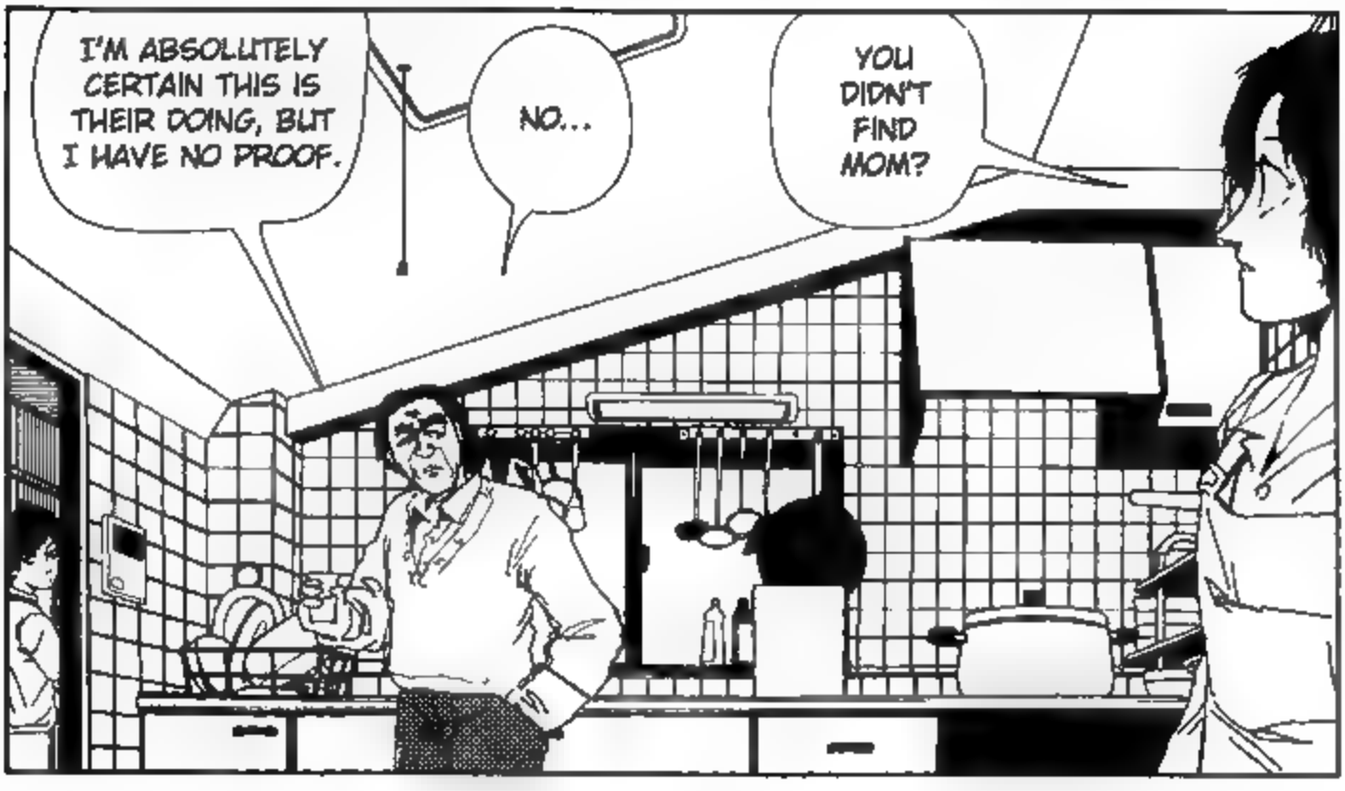

PLEASE LEAVE NOW.
IF YOU CONTINUE TO CAUSE TROUBLE ON OUR PREMISES, WE WILL REPORT YOU FOR TRESPASSING.






IT'S ME.

6


I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THIS IS THEIR DOING, BUT I HAVE NO PROOF.
NO...
YOU DIDN'T FIND MOM?

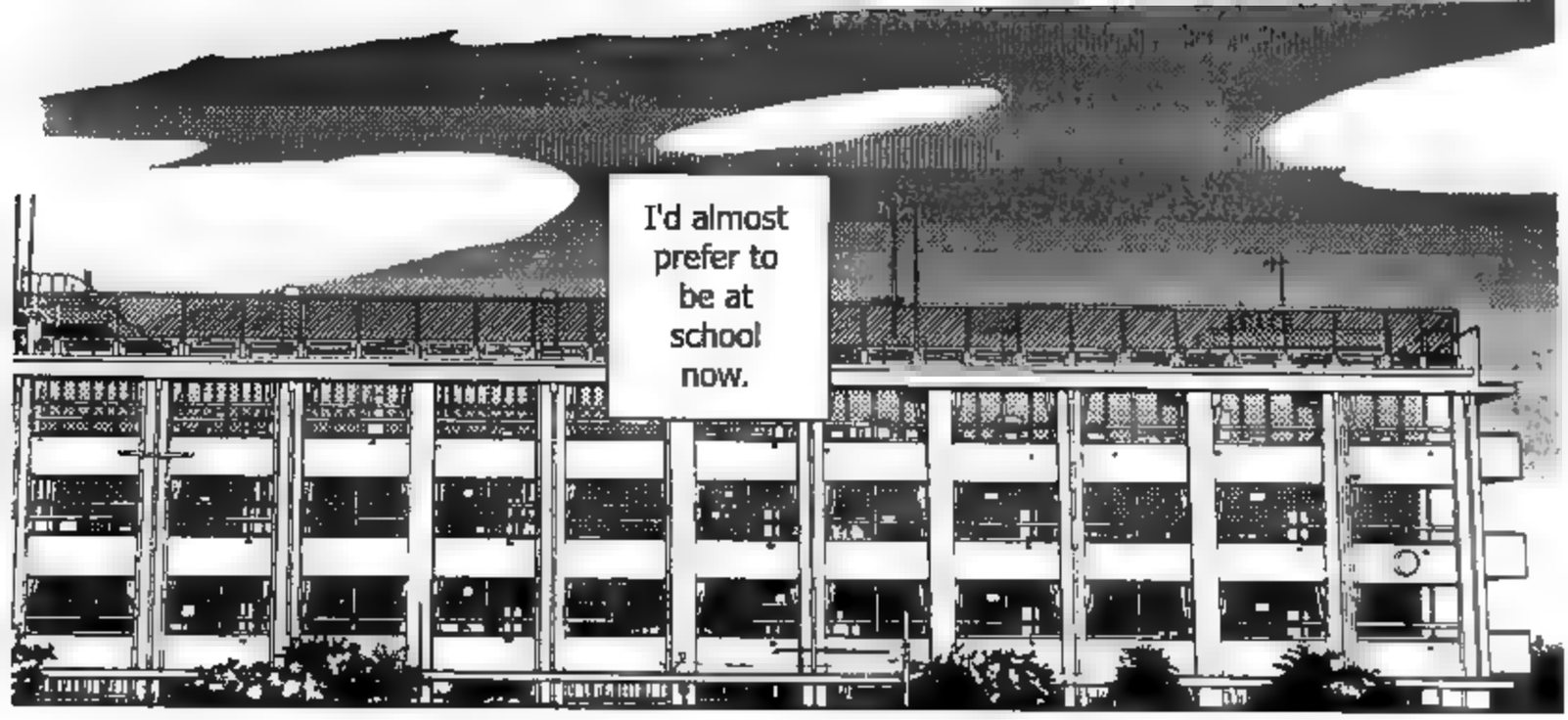

THIS IS PARTLY MY FAULT, FOR BEING PASSIVE AND ASSUMING THAT SHE WOULD SNAP OUT OF IT SOMEDAY.
IF ONLY I HAD FORCED HER TO STOP WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE, IT WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS...

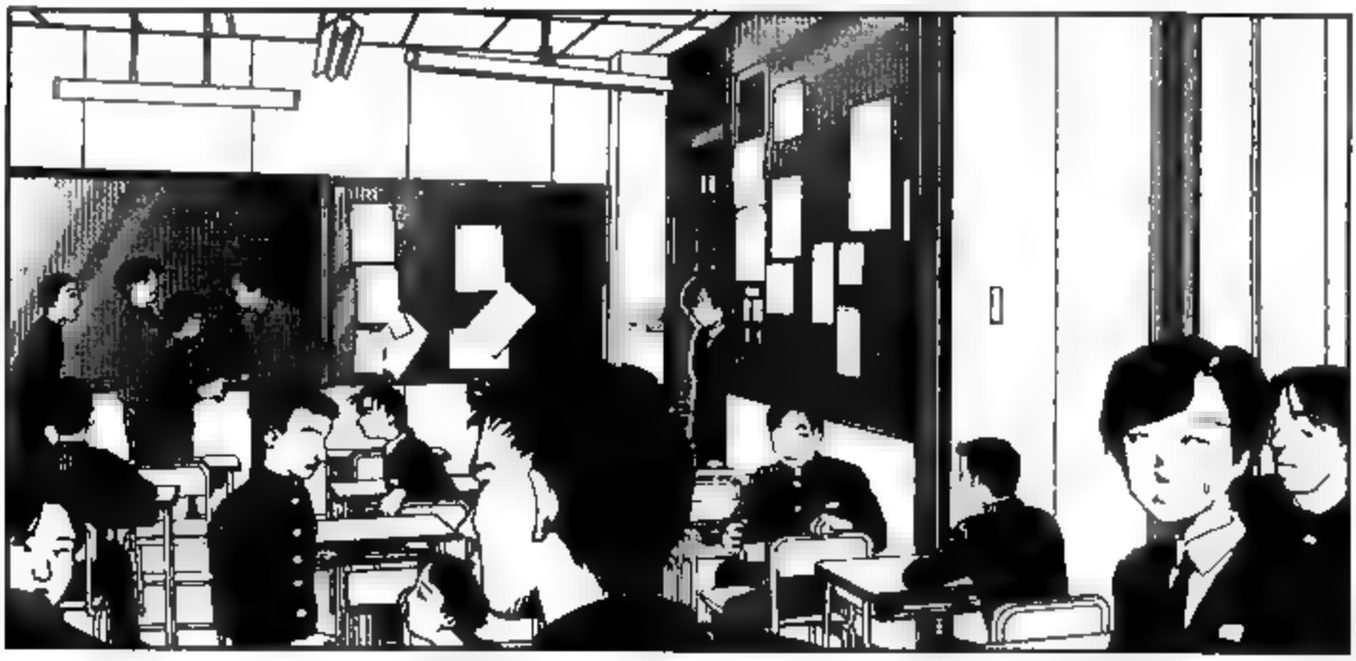



DON'T WORRY, SHE'S BOUND TO COME HOME SOON. I'LL JUST HANDLE ALL THE CHORES UNTIL THEN.
BESIDES DAD, YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON GETTING A JOB.

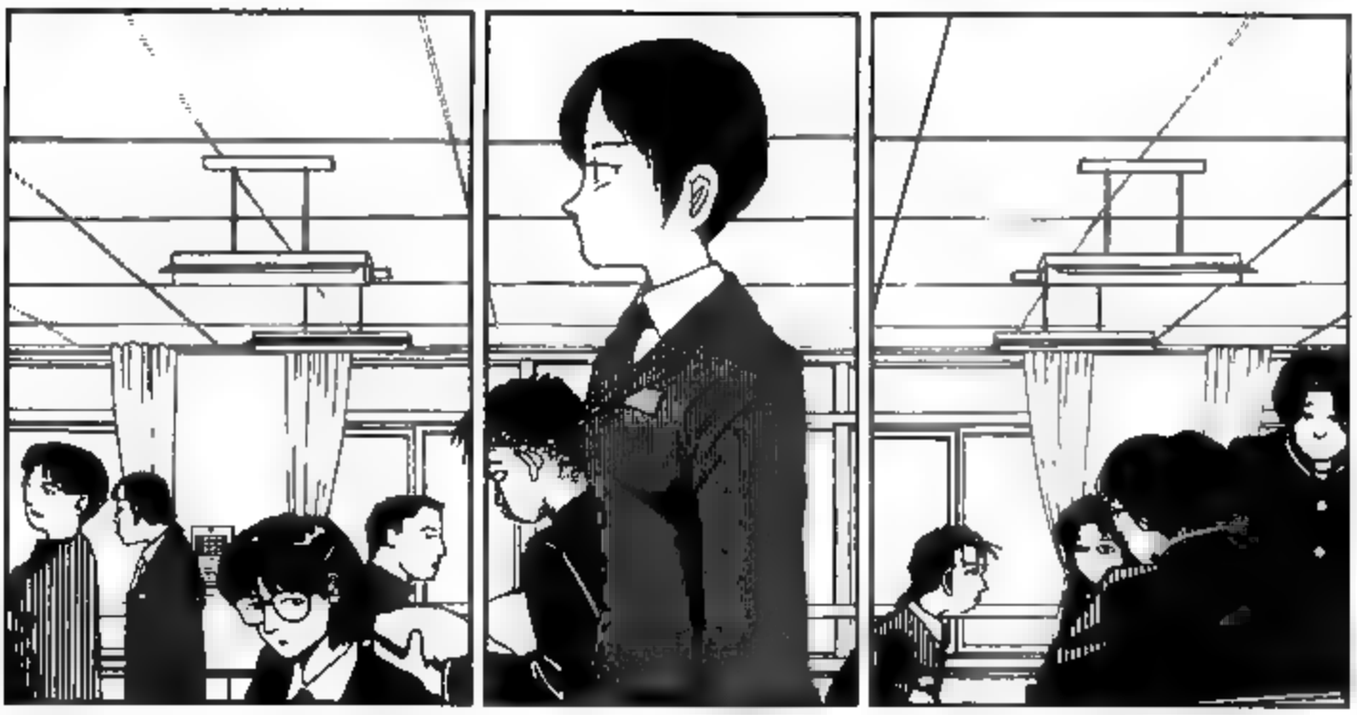
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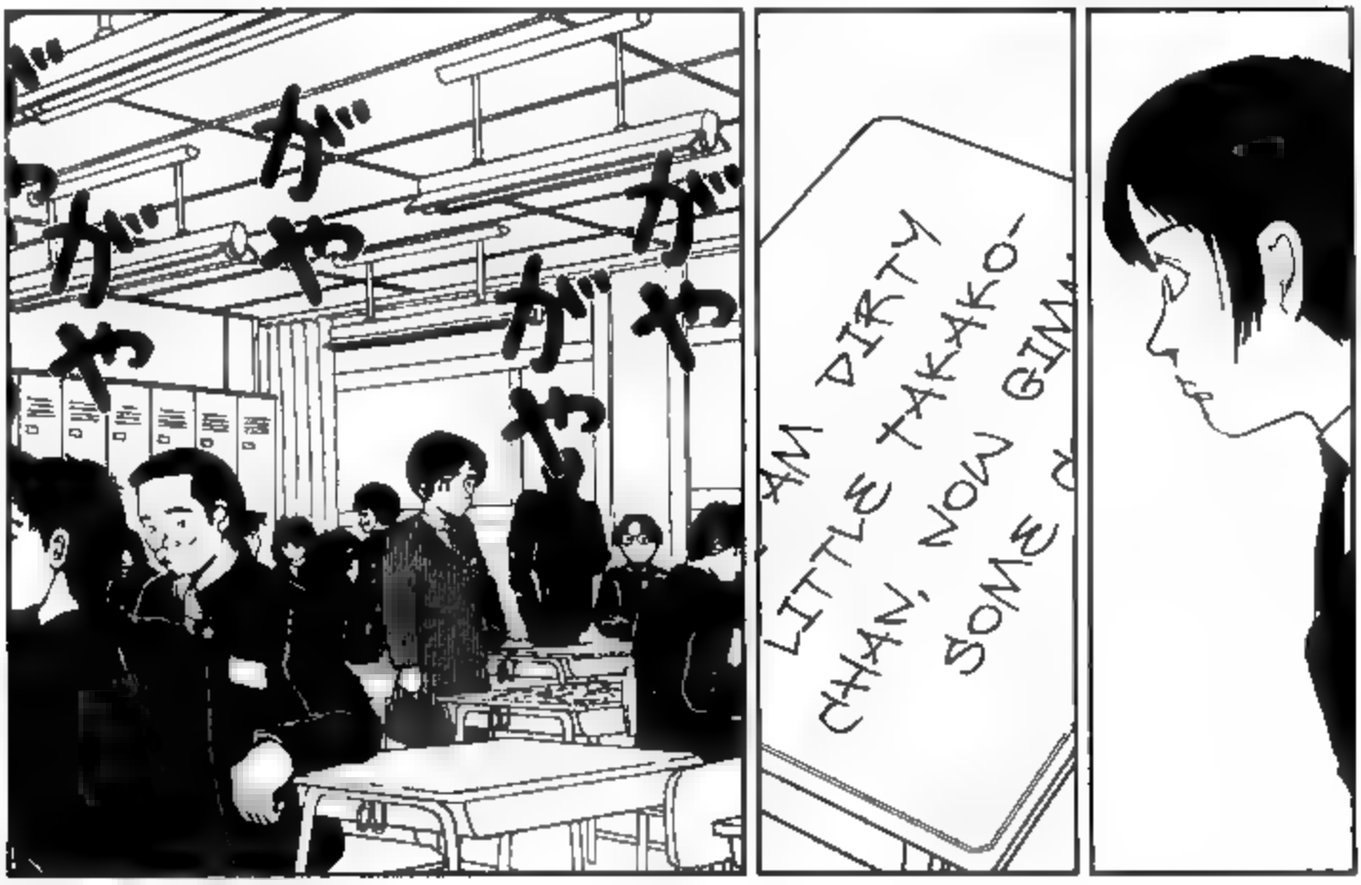
8







9


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CAN WE SWITCH DESKS?
W-WHAAAT?

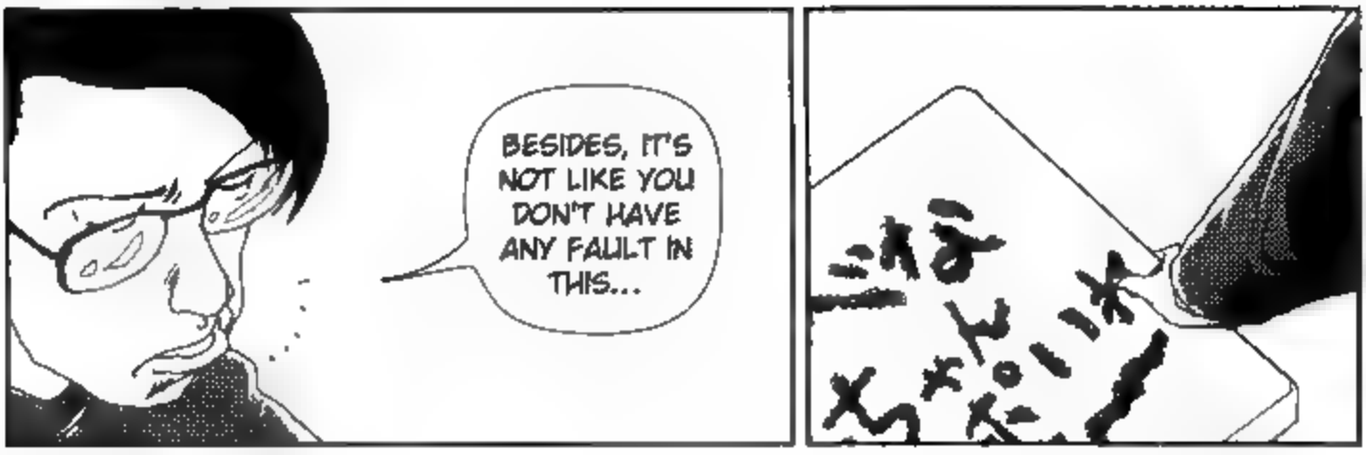

COME ON! WHEN I SAY SWITCH DESKS, WE'RE GONNA SWITCH DESKS, YOU LITTLE PRICK!!
SUZUKI-SAN, STOP THAT.
B-BUT... I DON'T WANNA!

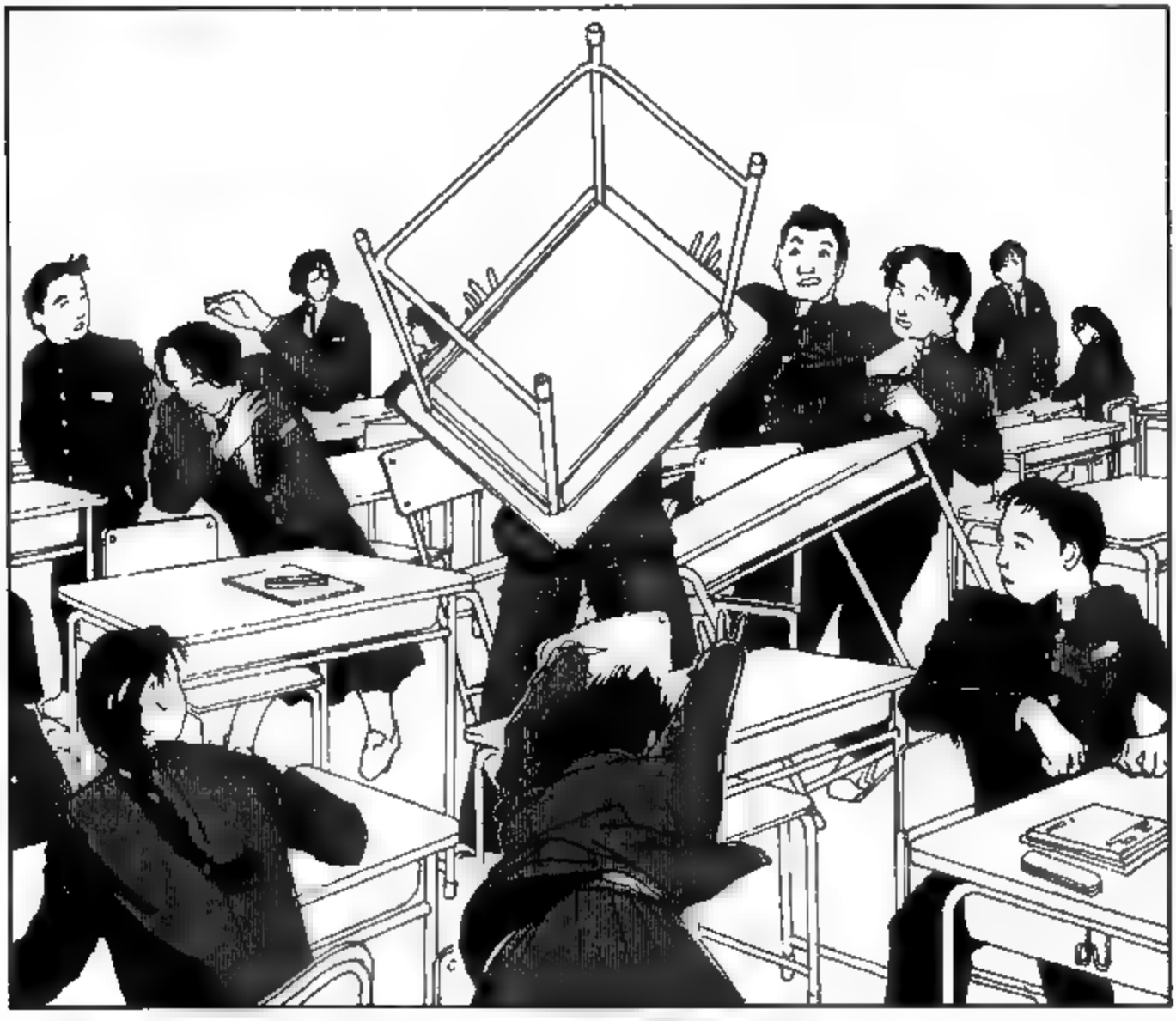

BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS JUST AS BAD AS WHOEVER WROTE THAT.


I KNOW THAT THIS ANONYMOUS GRAFFITTI ON YOUR DESK IS OBNOXIOUS,

10

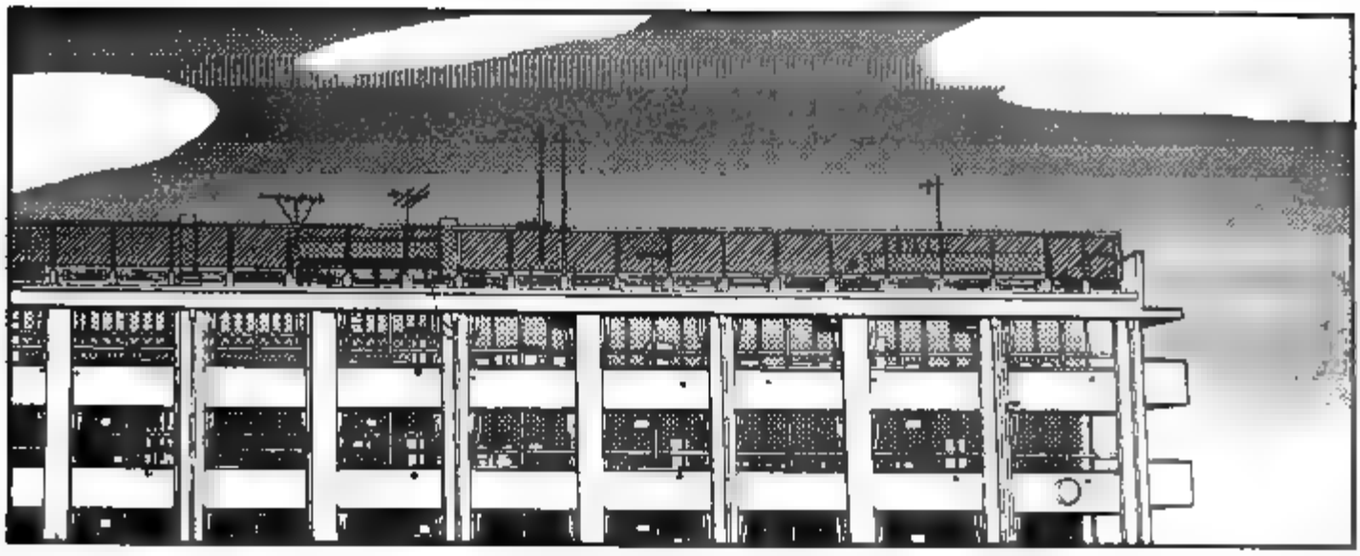

I THINK THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, YOU SHOULD JUST PUT UP WITH IT. WE CAN GET YOU A REPLACEMENT AFTERWARDS.





11

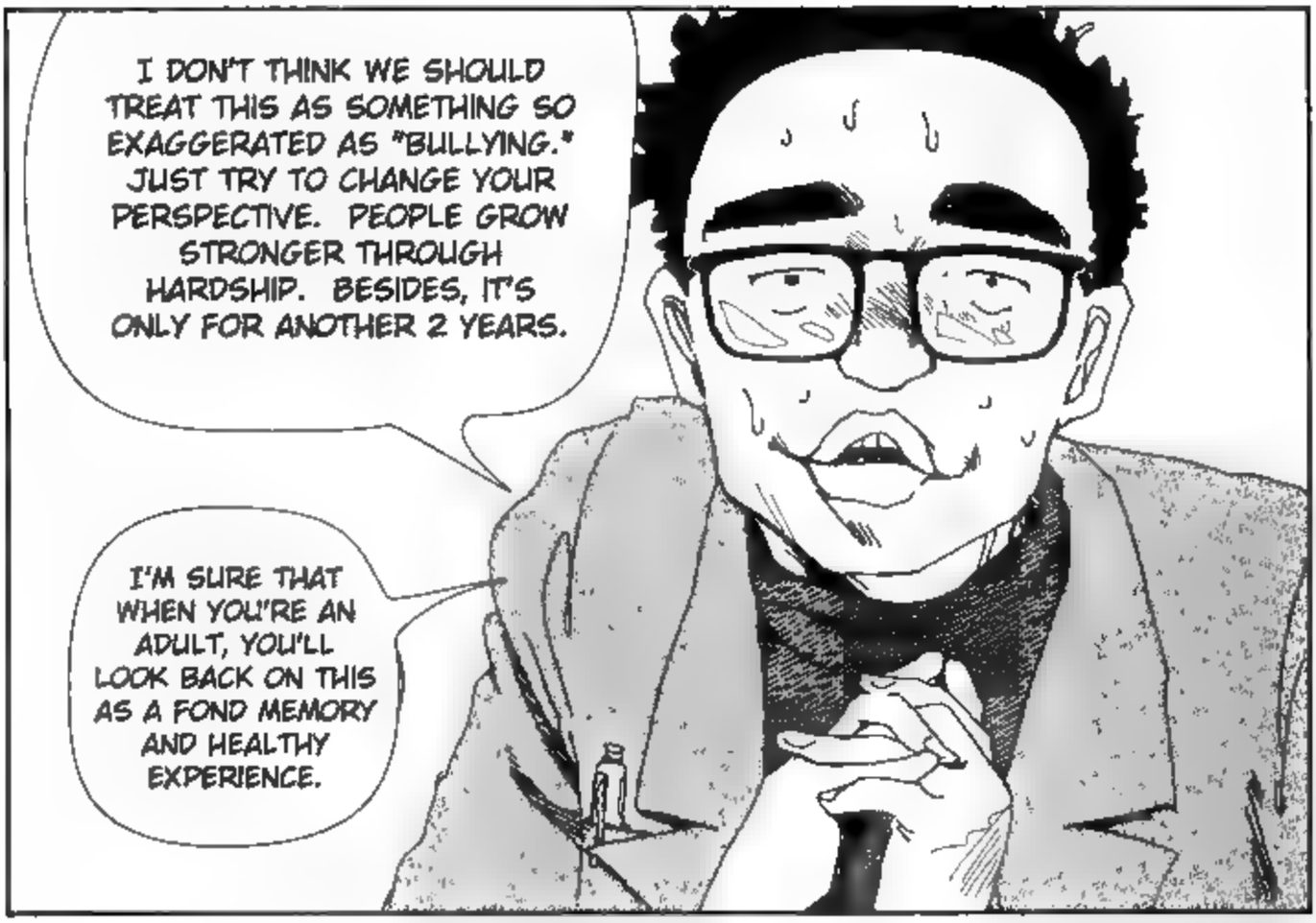


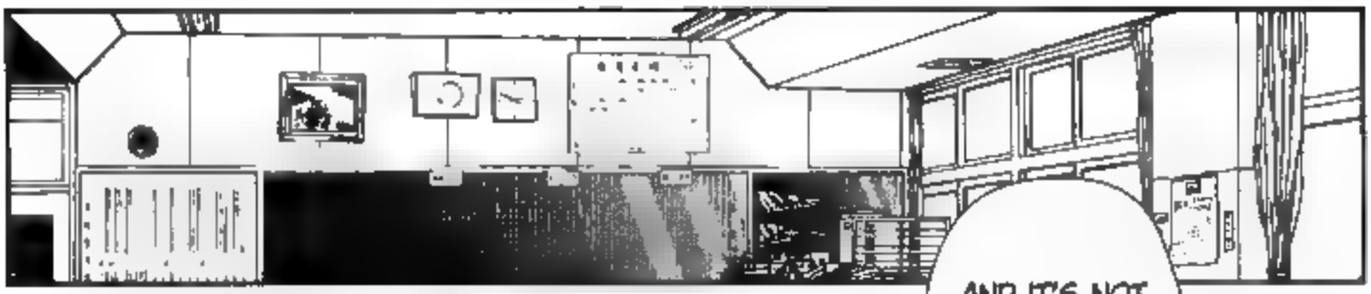



LOOK, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE MAD.

12

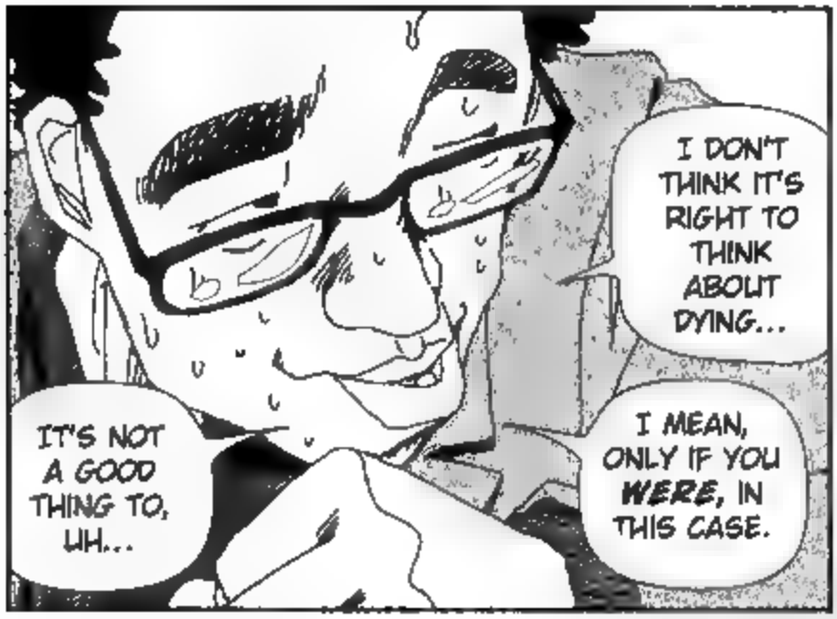

I'M SURE THOSE SAME BOYS SCRIBBLED ON IT. I'LL GIVE THEM A STERN TALKING-TO.
BUT YOU JUST CAN'T THROW YOUR DESK.
BUT EVEN IF THIS STRING OF EVENTS SHOULD CONTINUE, I BELIEVE YOU NEED TO REACT CALMLY AND RATIONALLY.


I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD TREAT THIS AS SOMETHING SO EXAGGERATED AS "BULLYING." JUST TRY TO CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE. PEOPLE GROW STRONGER THROUGH HARDSHIP. BESIDES, IT'S ONLY FOR ANOTHER 2 YEARS.
I'M SURE THAT WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT, YOU'LL LOOK BACK ON THIS AS A FOND MEMORY AND HEALTHY EXPERIENCE.



13


AND IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE COMPLETELY WITHOUT ERROR IN THIS CASE, IS IT?
LOOK, JUST PASS IT OFF AS NECESSARY TRIBULATIONS. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE LIKE THEM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ANYWAYS...


I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT TO THINK ABOUT DYING...
I MEAN, ONLY IF YOU WERE, IN THIS CASE.
IT'S NOT A GOOD THING TO, UH...


...AND... UM... WELL...
NOT THAT I THINK YOU WOULD DO THIS.
BUT, UH... OH, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...
HUH?

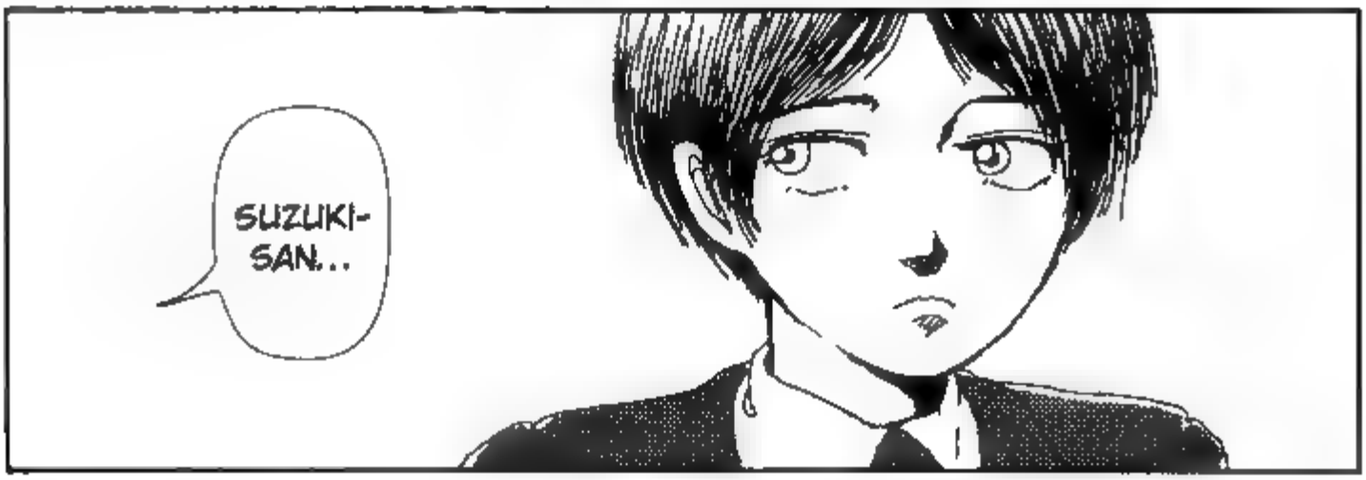

WHAAAT ?
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL MYSELF!
OH NO! NO NO NO, OF COURSE NOT. HA HA! I'M SORRY, I'M JUST BEING SILLY. FORGIVE ME.

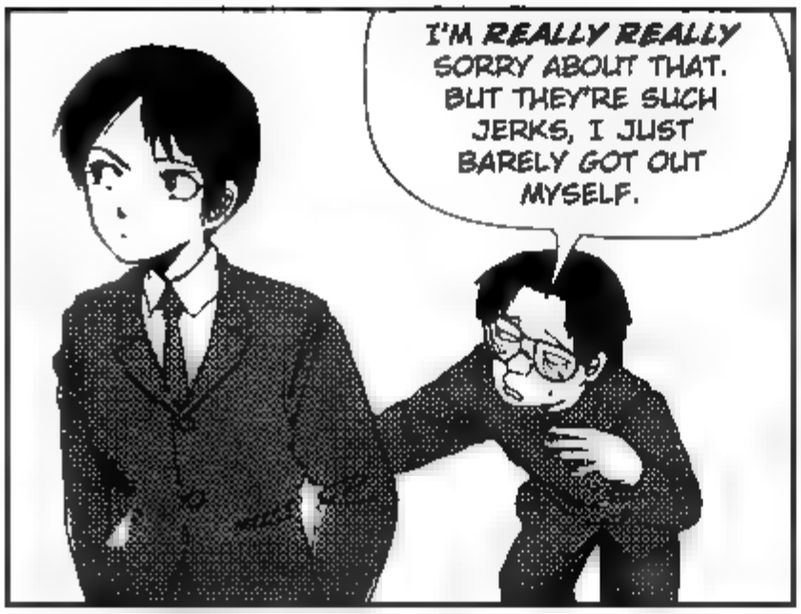
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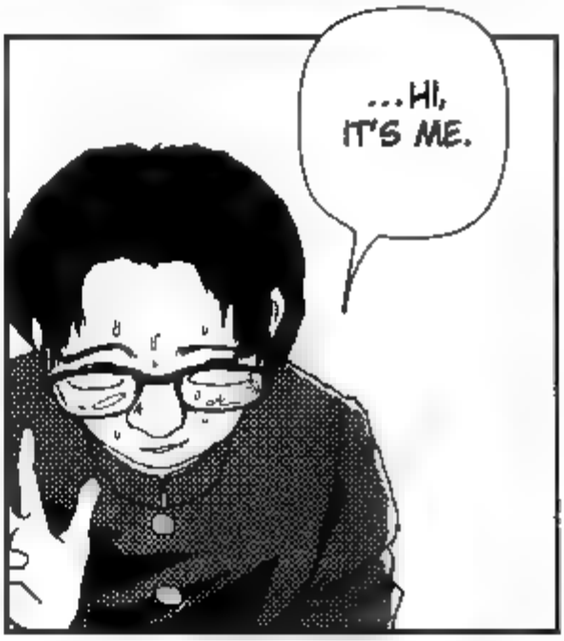





IT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, SUZUKI!
WELL, THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

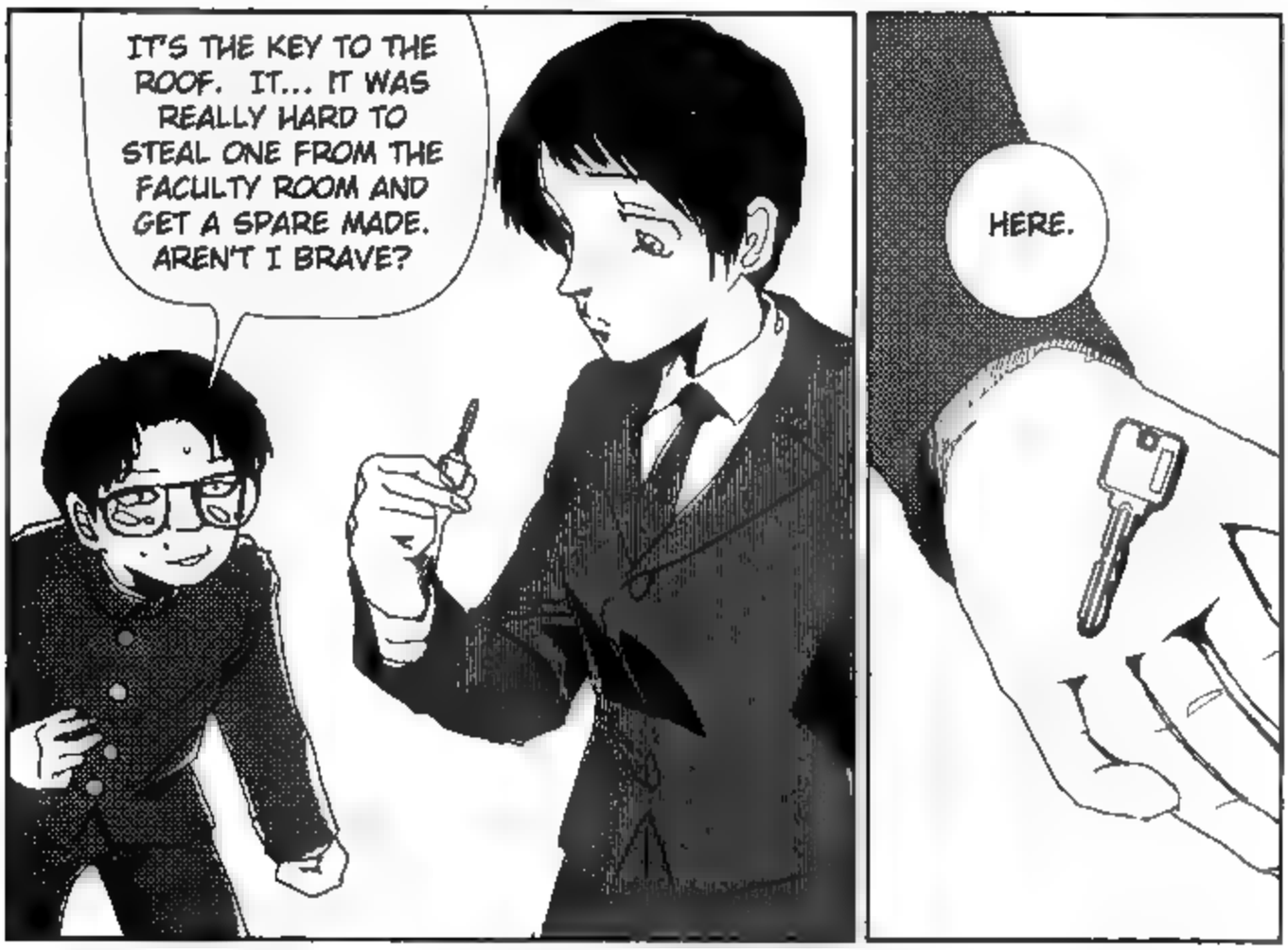

SUZUKI-SAN...


I'M REALLY REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT THEY'RE SUCH JERKS, I JUST BARELY GOT OUT MYSELF.


...HI, IT'S ME.

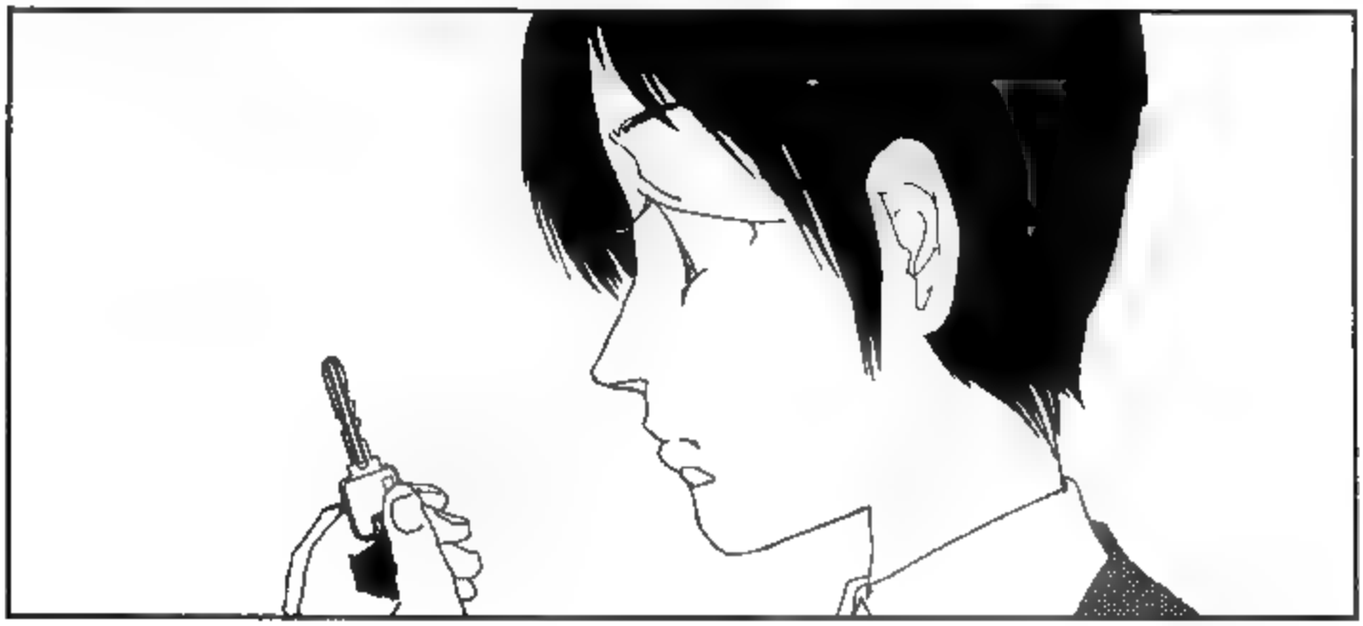
15


WE'RE STILL FRIENDS, RIGHT? WE CAN MAKE UP AFTER THIS!
PLEASE, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND. THEY'RE TERRIFYING!
HEY, ARE YOU MAD? YOU'RE MAD, AREN'T YOU.

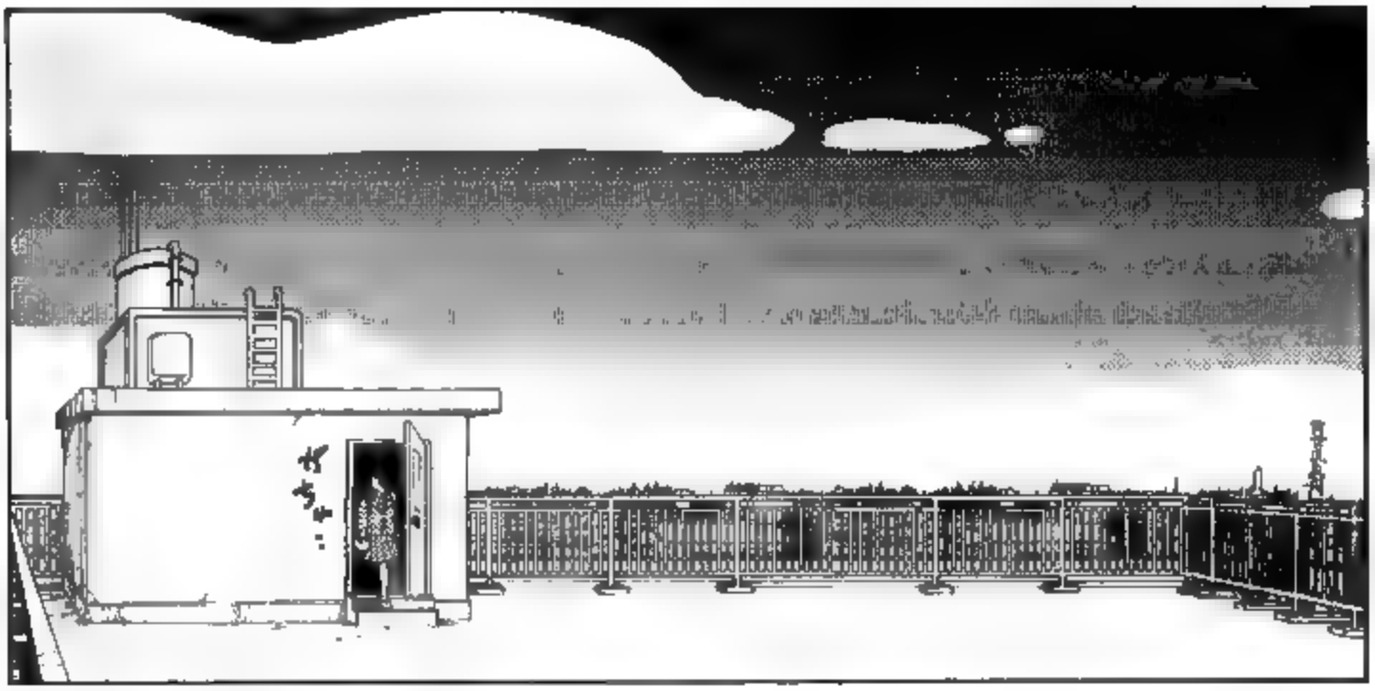

IT'S THE KEY TO THE ROOF. IT... IT WAS REALLY HARD TO STEAL ONE FROM THE FACULTY ROOM AND GET A SPARE MADE. AREN'T I BRAVE?
HERE.

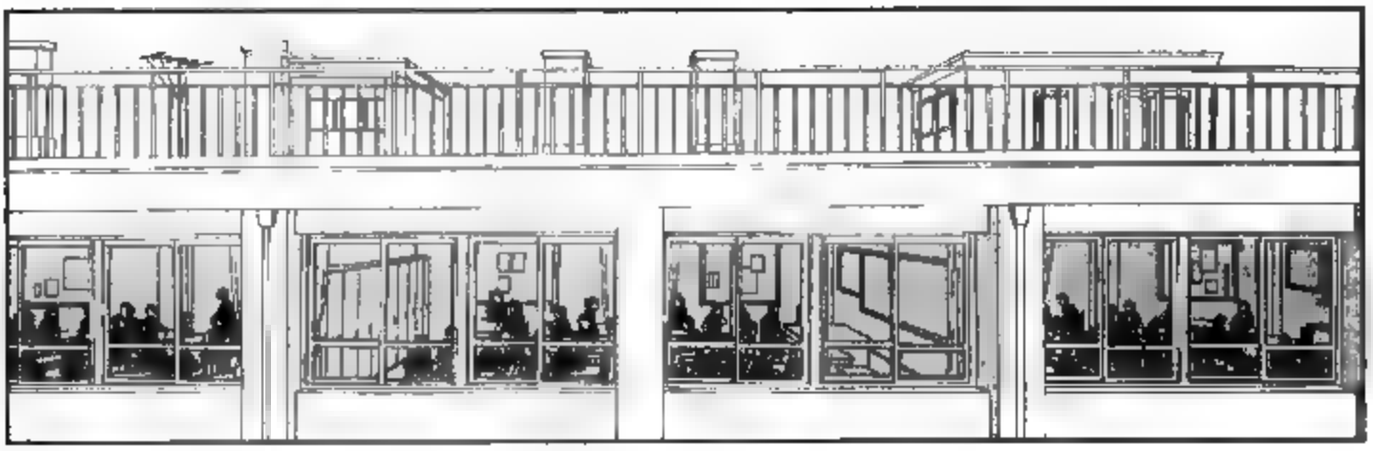

I'LL SEE YOU LATER! I HAVE TO GO NOW.
A-AND WHEN I THROW THEM OFF, I'LL GO BACK TO THE ROOF.

16

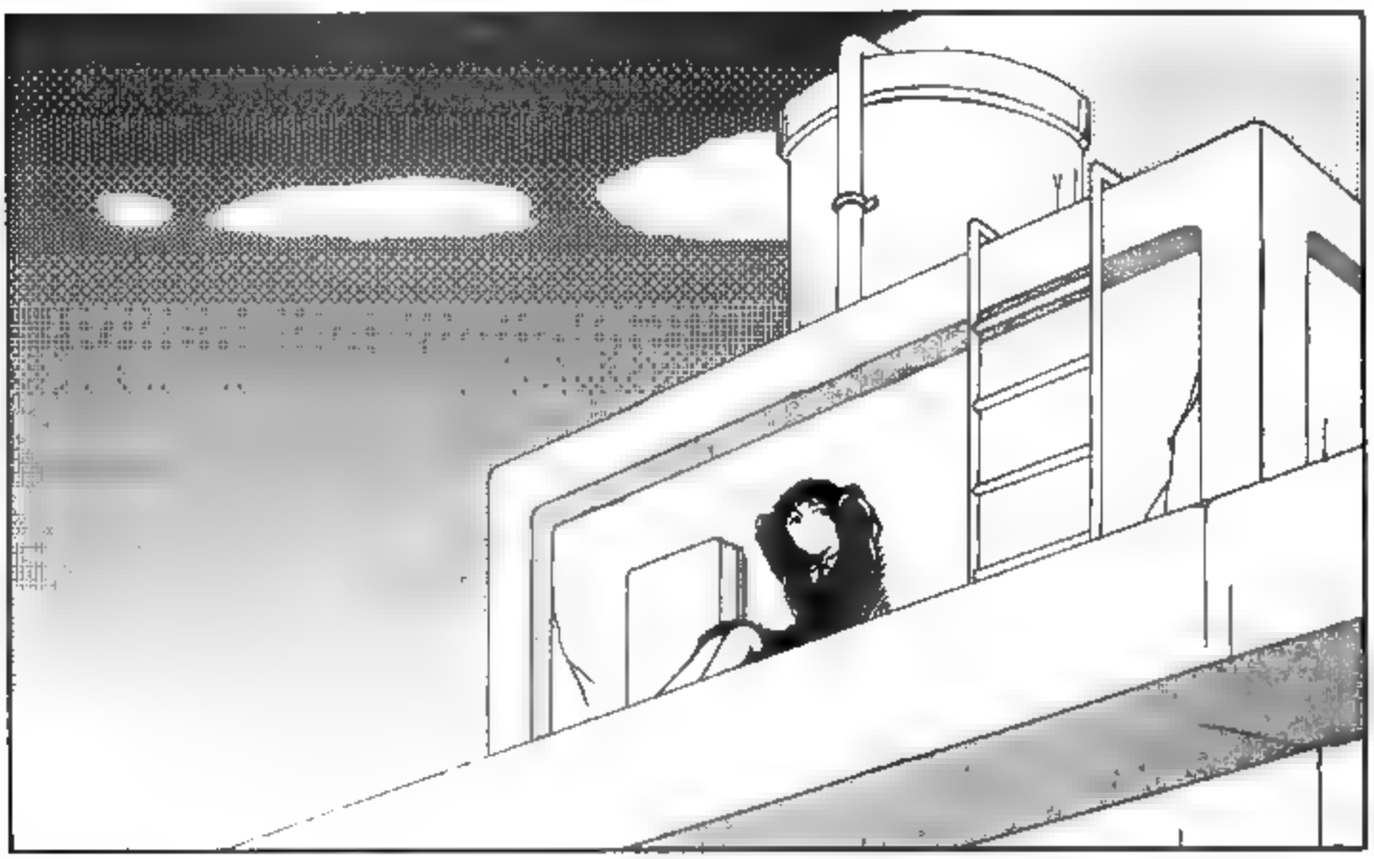


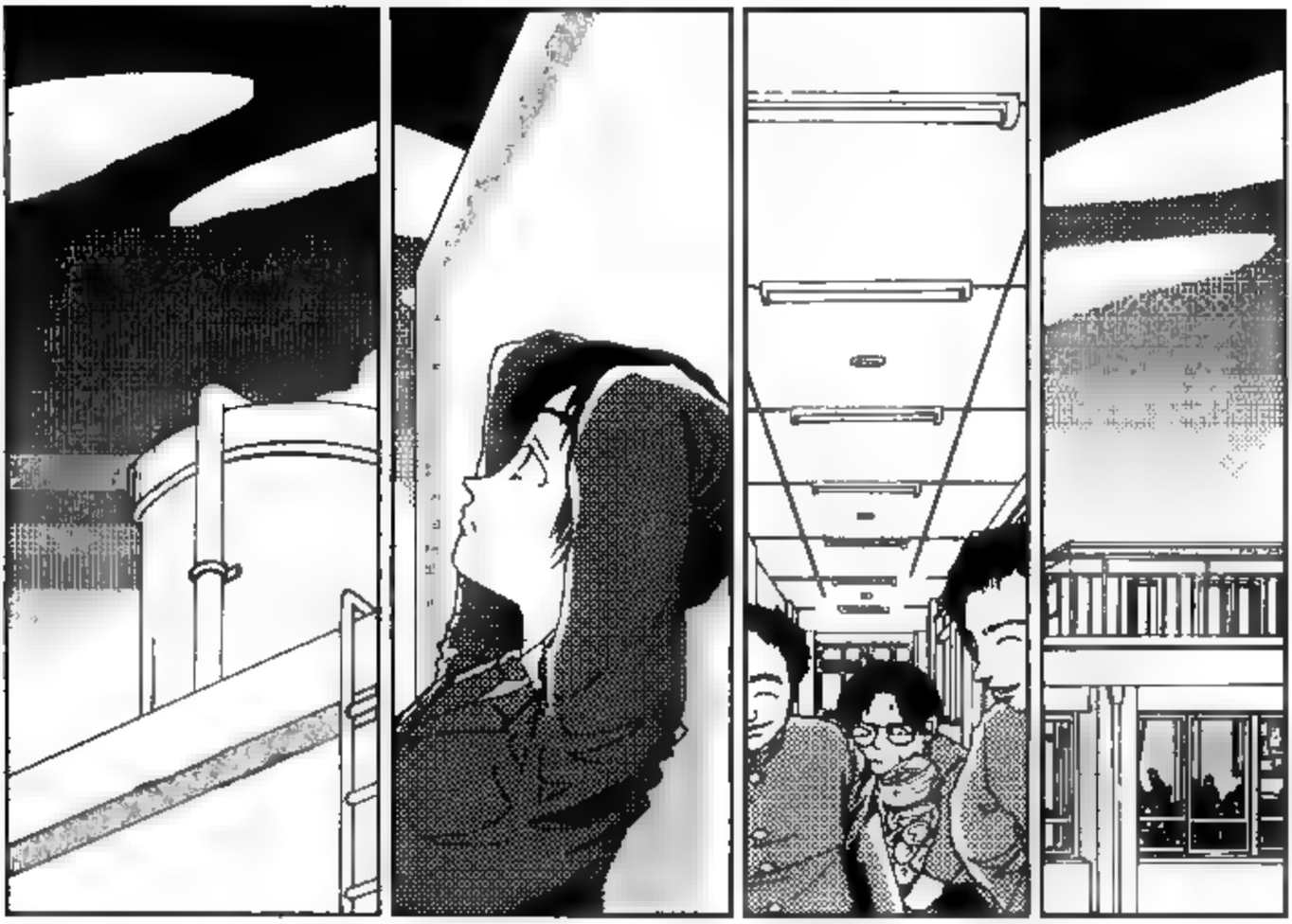
ありがとう④



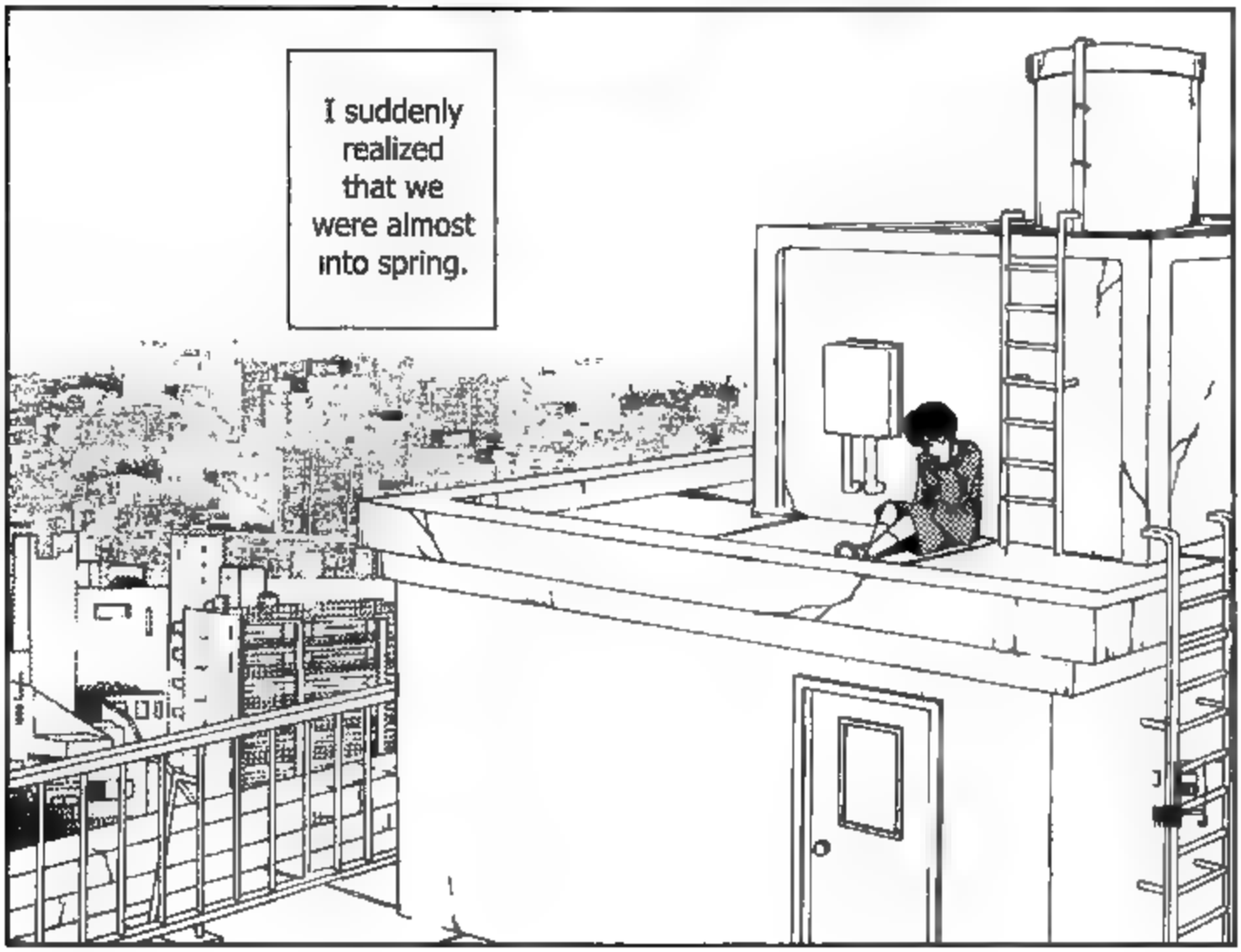


17





18



SCANNED AND EDITED BY GATSU
THEHAWKS.ORG
TRANSLATED BY STEPHEN PAUL



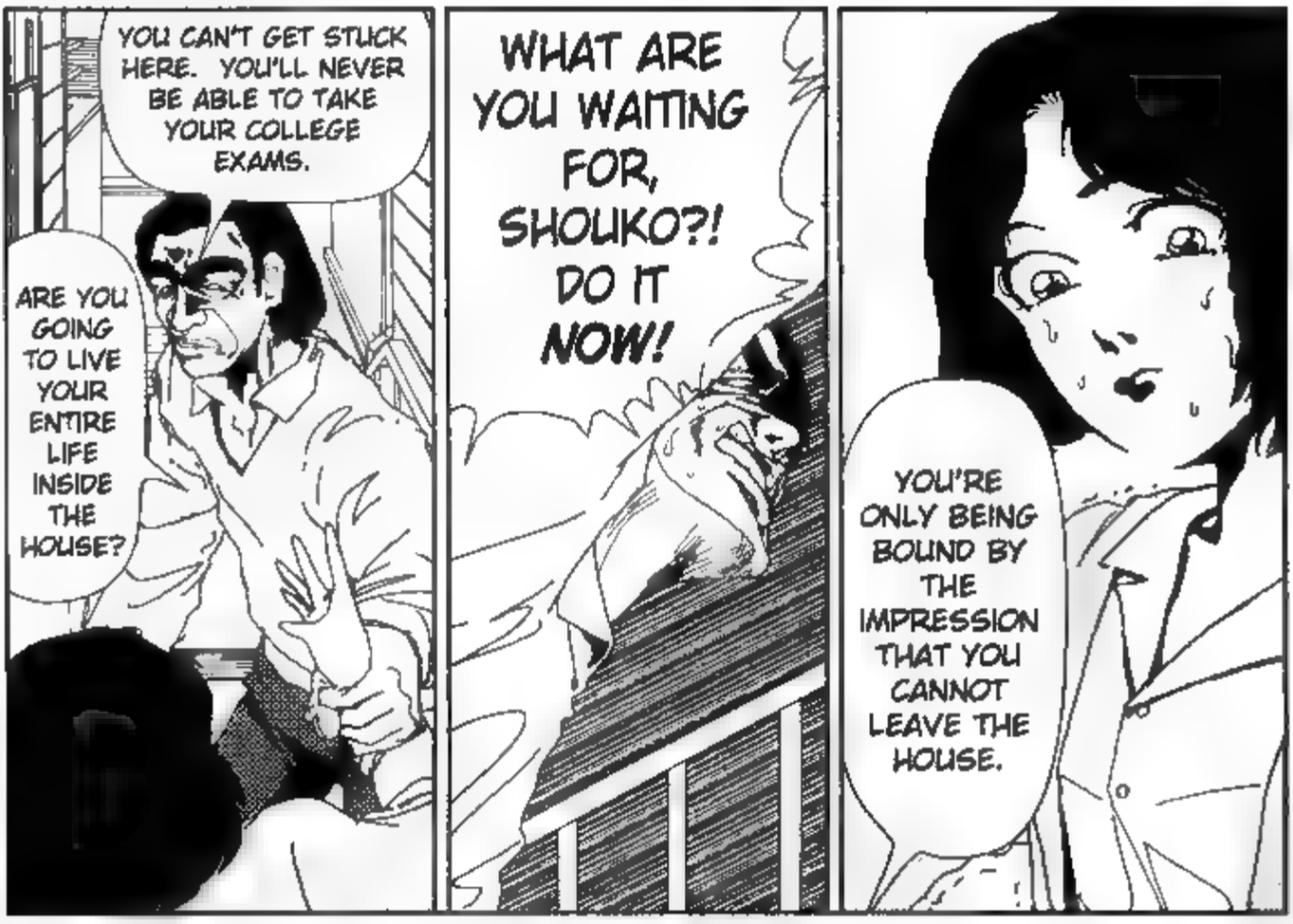
30 DAD GOES TO SCHOOL


IT'S ALL RIGHT. SEE? JUST OPEN YOUR EYES.

2


IT'S VERY SIMPLE. JUST TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD.




YOU CAN'T GET STUCK HERE. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR COLLEGE EXAMS.
ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE INSIDE THE HOUSE?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, SHOUKO?! DO IT NOW!
YOU'RE ONLY BEING BOUND BY THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU CANNOT LEAVE THE HOUSE.

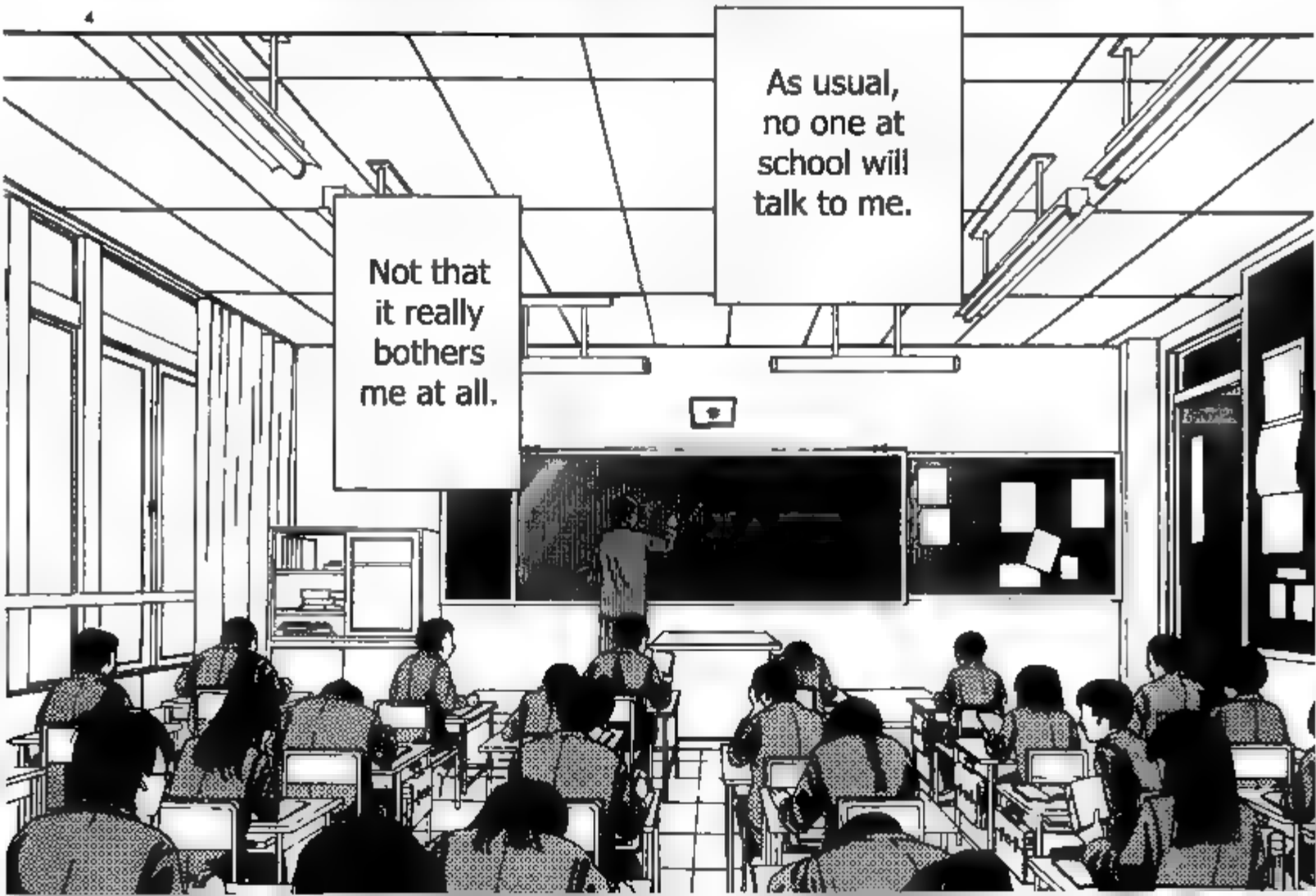

COME AND JOIN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!!

3

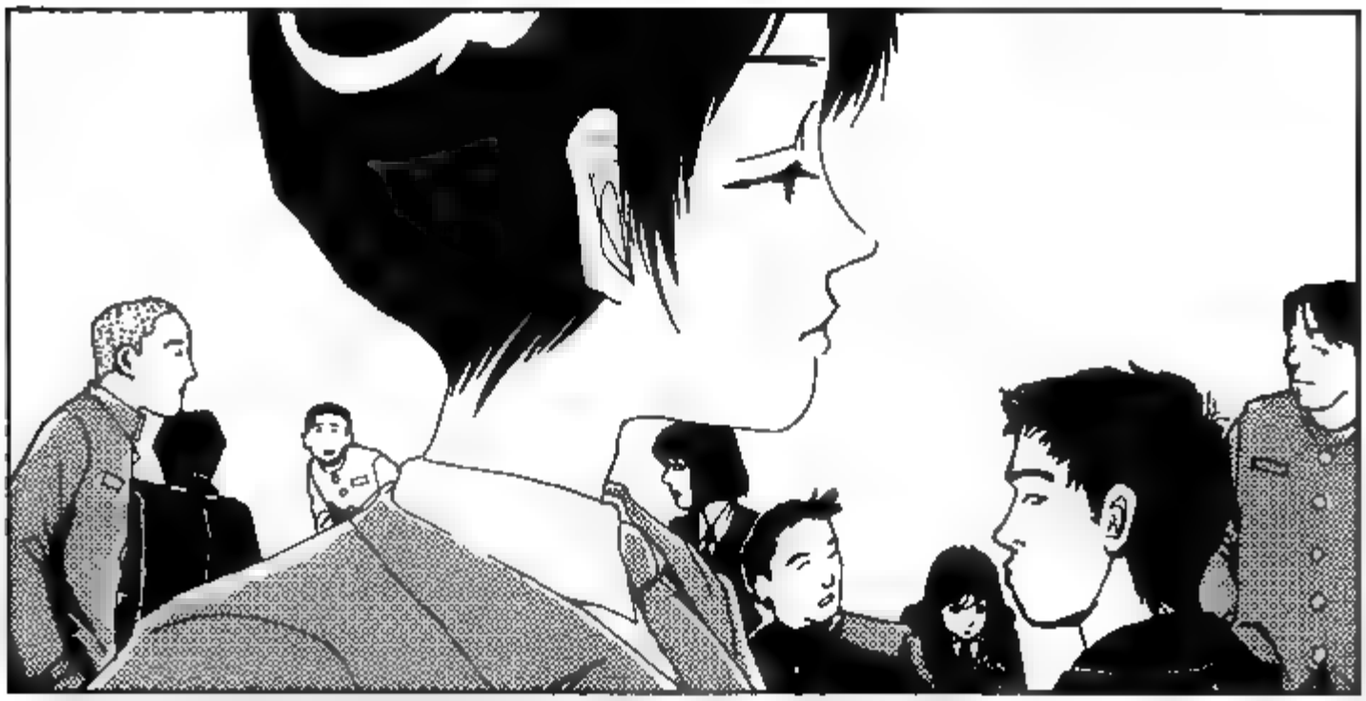





BLAAAAAARGH

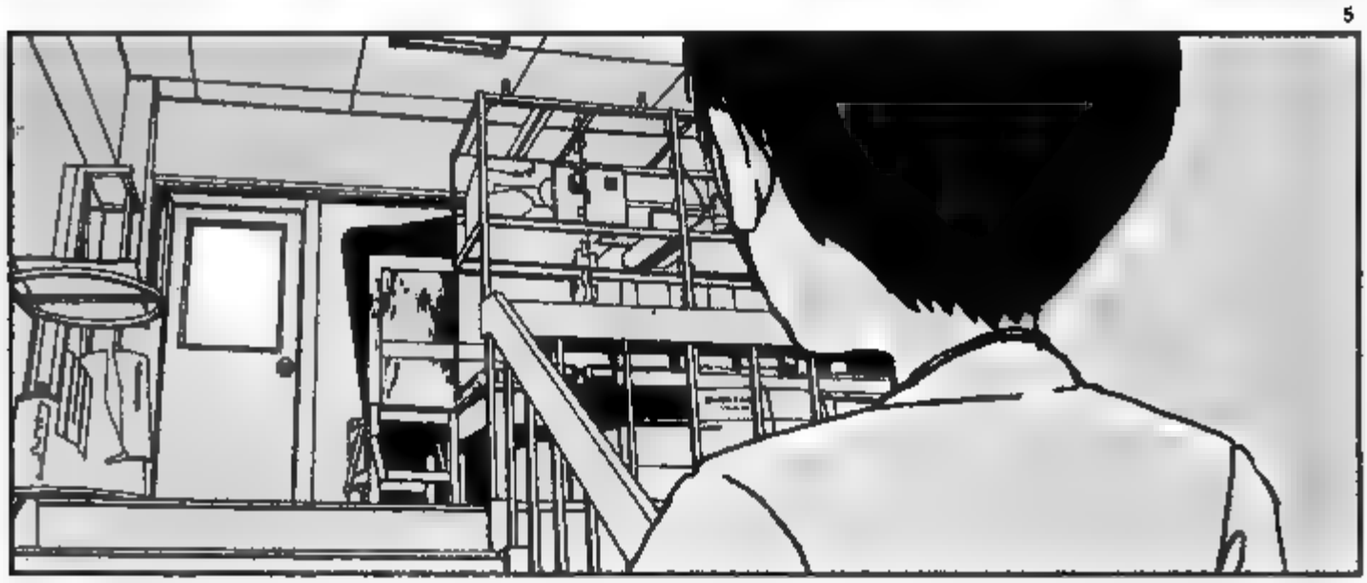

As usual, no one at school will talk to me.
Not that it really bothers me at all.

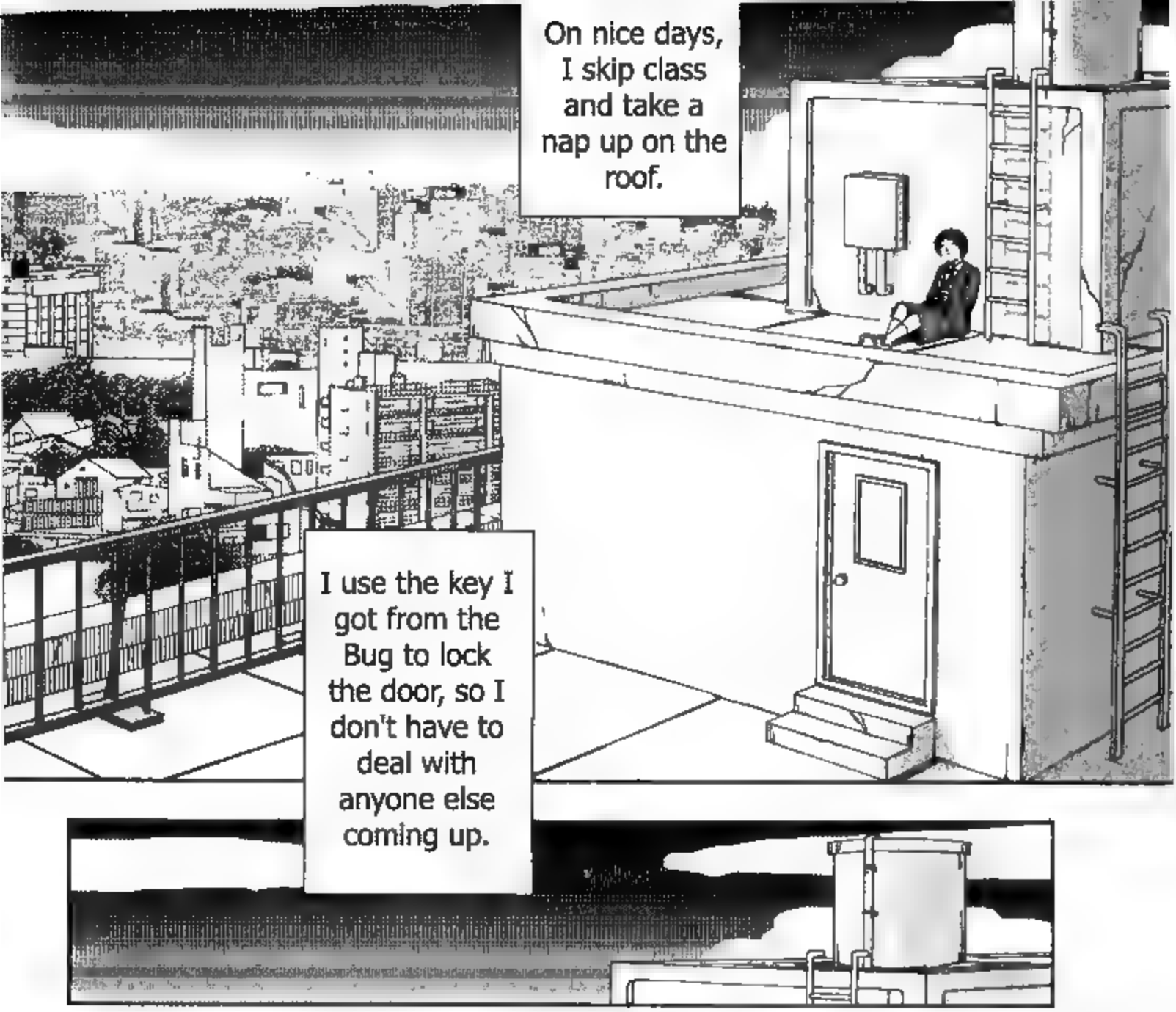




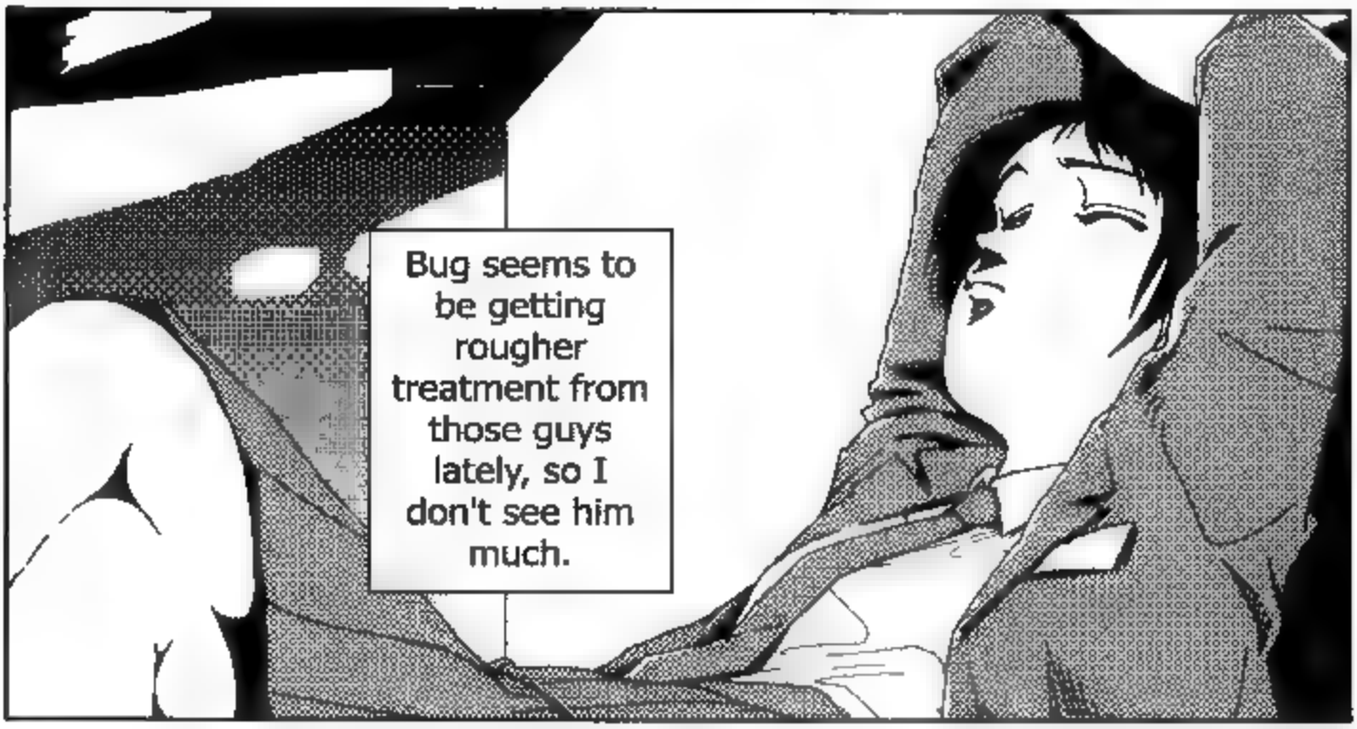


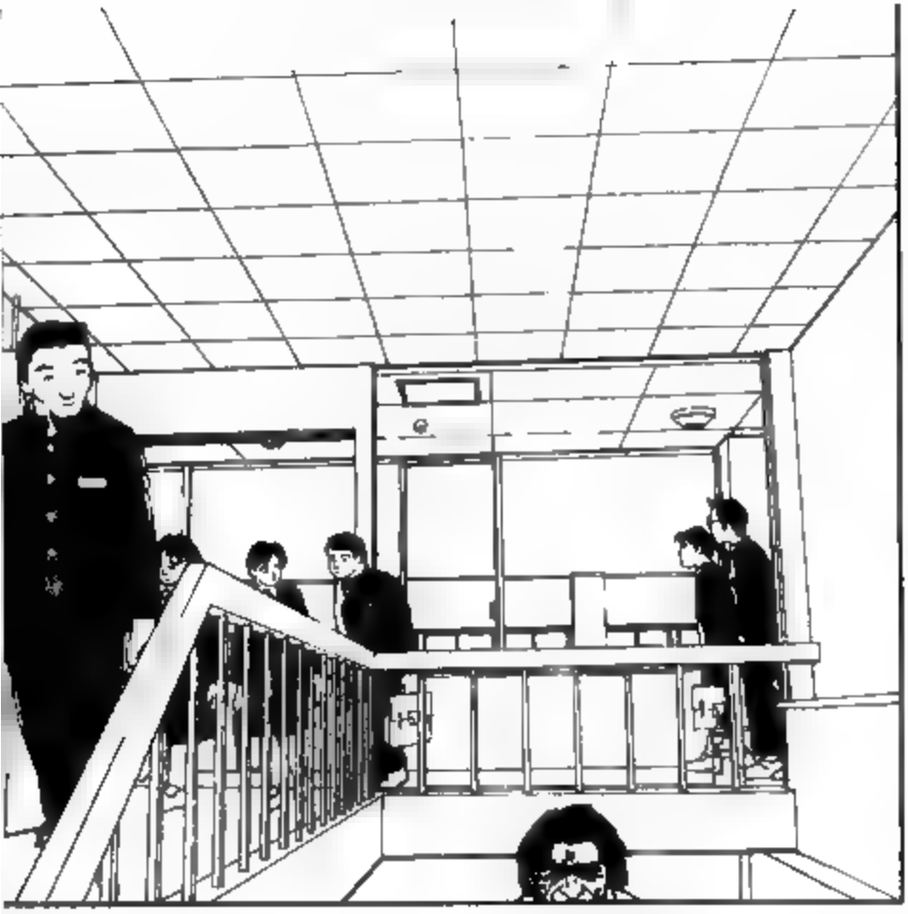
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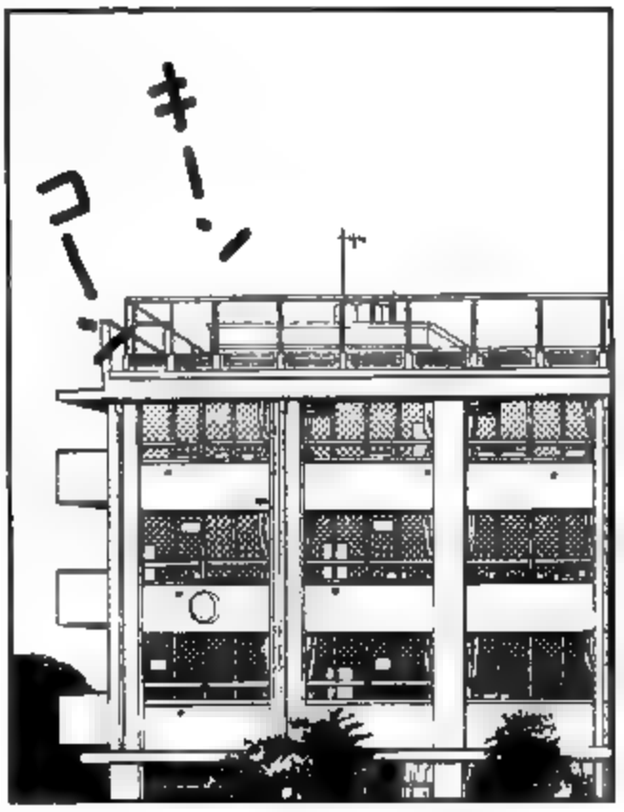


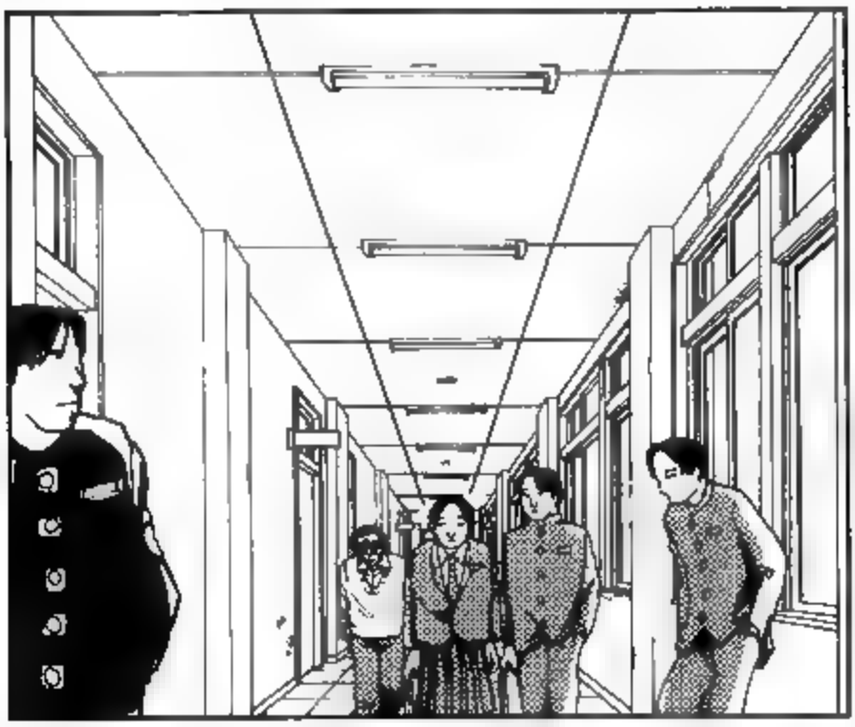

On nice days, I skip class and take a nap up on the roof.
I use the key I got from the Bug to lock the door, so I don't have to deal with anyone else coming up.

6


Bug seems to be getting rougher treatment from those guys lately, so I don't see him much.





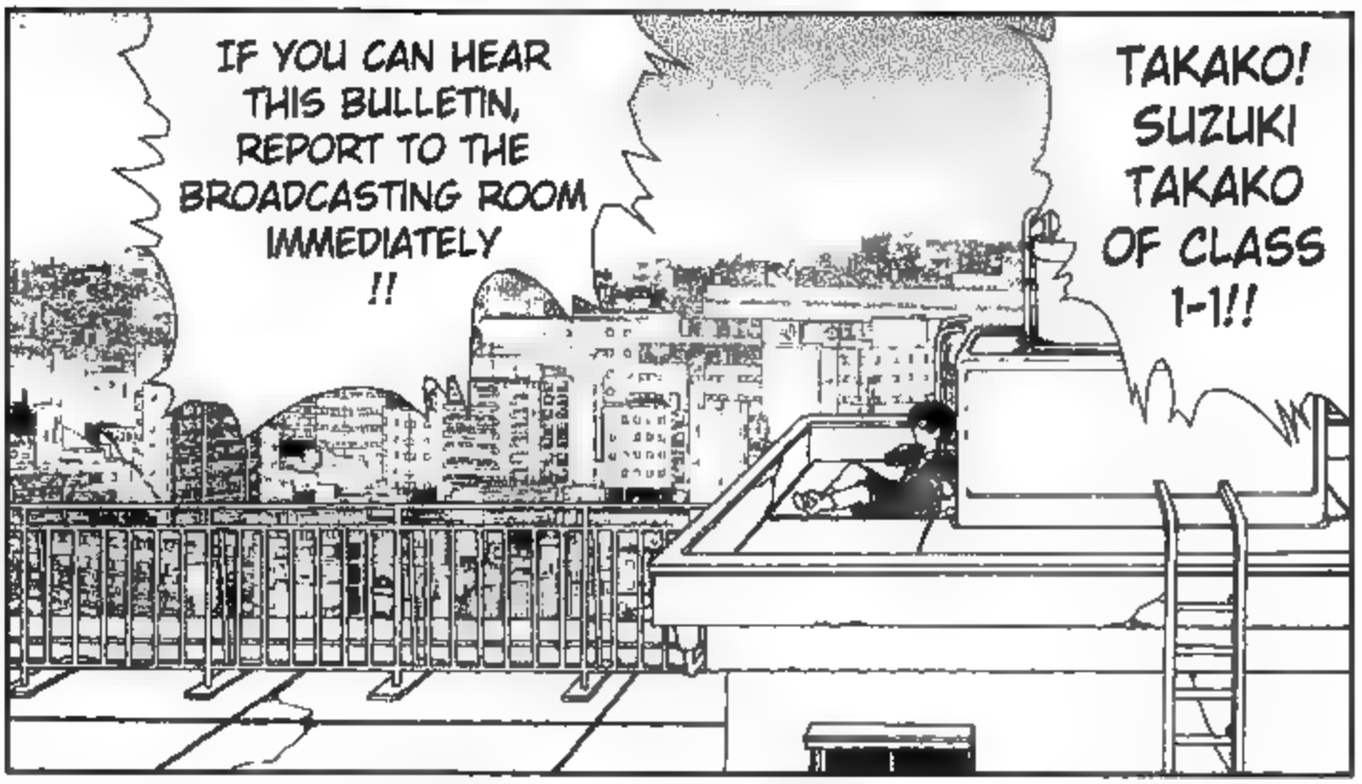


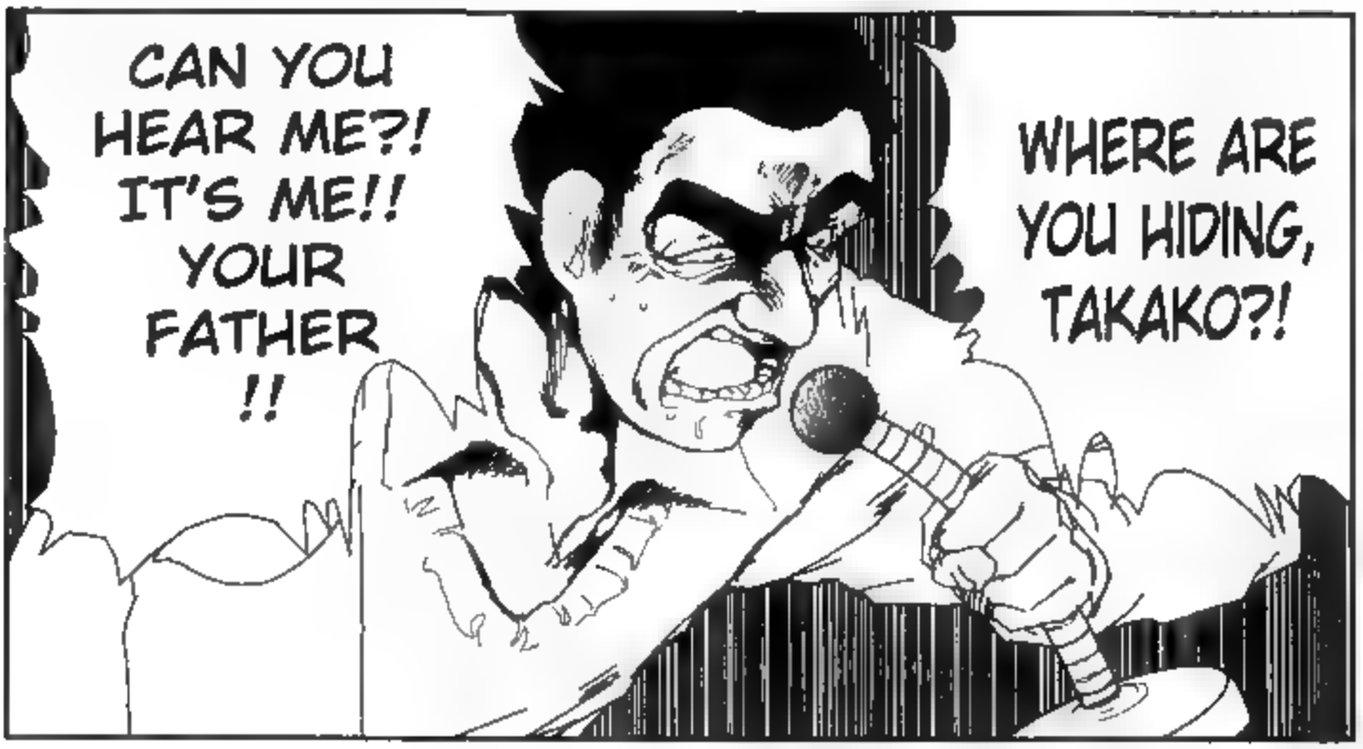


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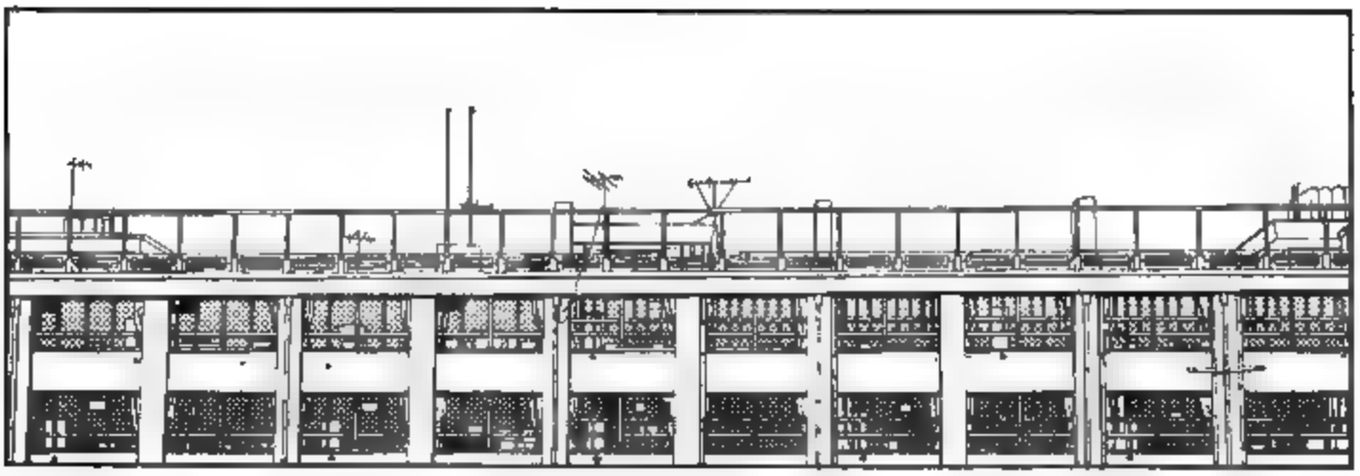



ZZZZZ.


IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS BULLETIN, REPORT TO THE BROADCASTING ROOM IMMEDIATELY !!
TAKAKO! SUZUKI TAKAKO OF CLASS 1-1!!

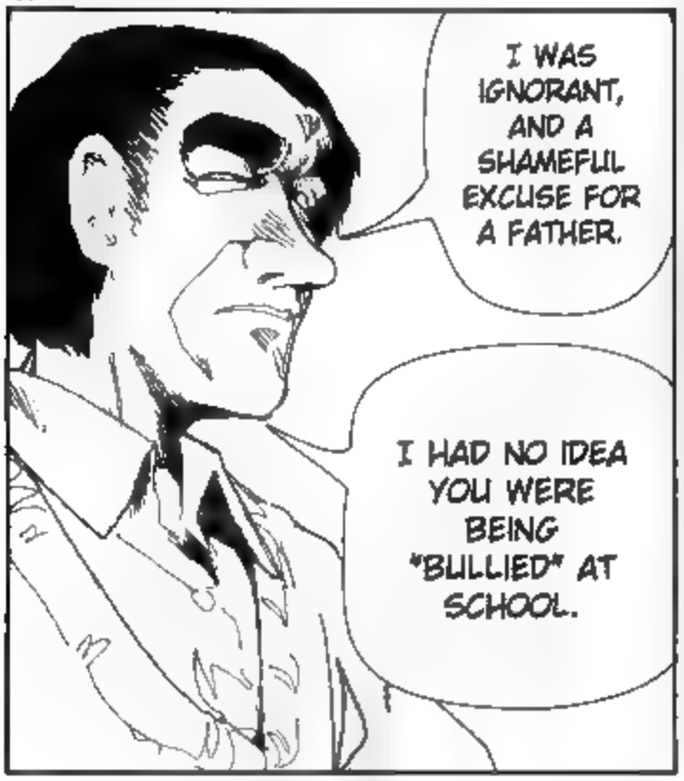

CAN YOU HEAR ME?! IT'S ME!! YOUR FATHER !!
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, TAKAKO?!


I REPEAT, SUZUKI TAKAKO, CLASS 1-1, REPORT TO THE BROADCASTING ROOM AT ONCE!!
OR ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHERE MY TAKAKO IS! JUST COME TO THE BROADCASTING ROOM!!
UMM, YOU CAN'T JUST ...
YOU GET OFF MY BACK! WHAT KIND OF FATHER DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HIS CHILDREN?!
CAN YOU HEAR ME OR NOT, TAKAKO?!
OR CAN YOU HEAR ME, AND YOU'RE JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO MOVE RIGHT NOW?!
GOD DAMNIT ...




YOU WEREN'T AROUND OUTSIDE, YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR CLASSROOM ...
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU AND COULDN'T FIND YOU.
.....

10

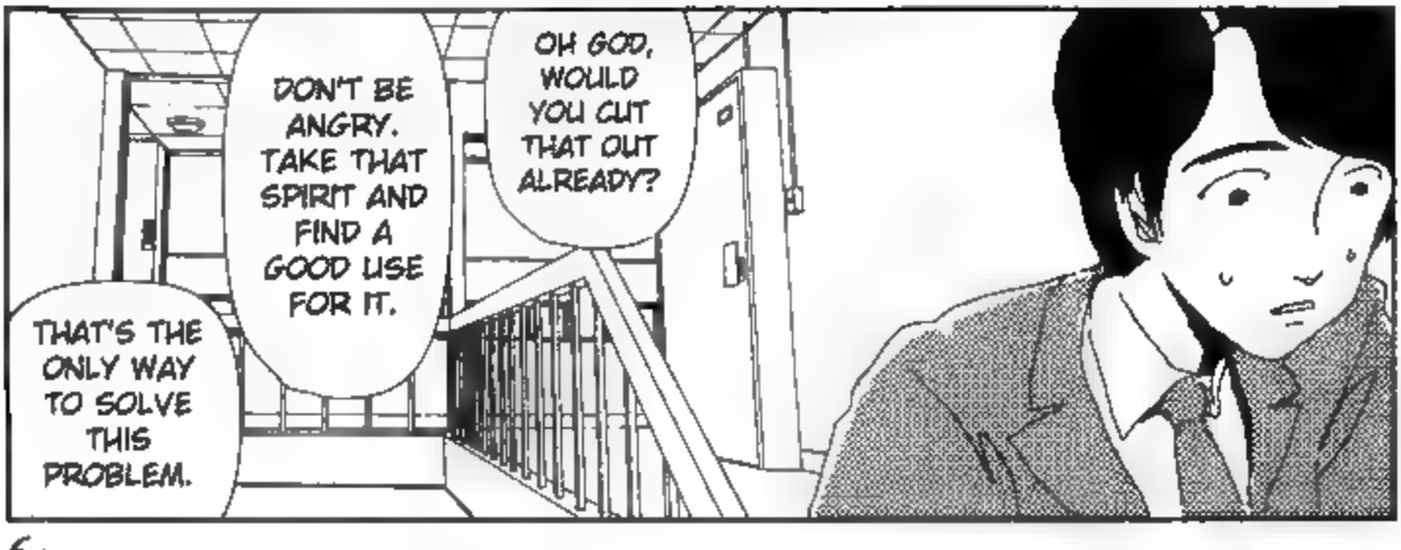

I WAS IGNORANT, AND A SHAMEFUL EXCUSE FOR A FATHER.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE BEING "BULLIED" AT SCHOOL.


COME ON. WE'RE GOING TO THE FACULTY ROOM.
HUH?


NOW LET'S GO TO THE LOUNGE AND TELL THE TEACHER ALL ABOUT IT. THEN WE CAN DISCUSS A WAY TO DEAL WITH IT.
.....


YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD. DAD UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING.
IT WAS YOCCHAN. SHE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, DIDN'T SHE?

11


OH GOD, WOULD YOU CUT THAT OUT ALREADY?
DON'T BE ANGRY. TAKE THAT SPIRIT AND FIND A GOOD USE FOR IT.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.


WELL, YOU SEE, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, THAT THIS IS NOT QUITE "BULLYING" AS IT IS SOMETHING, WELL, LESS...

12

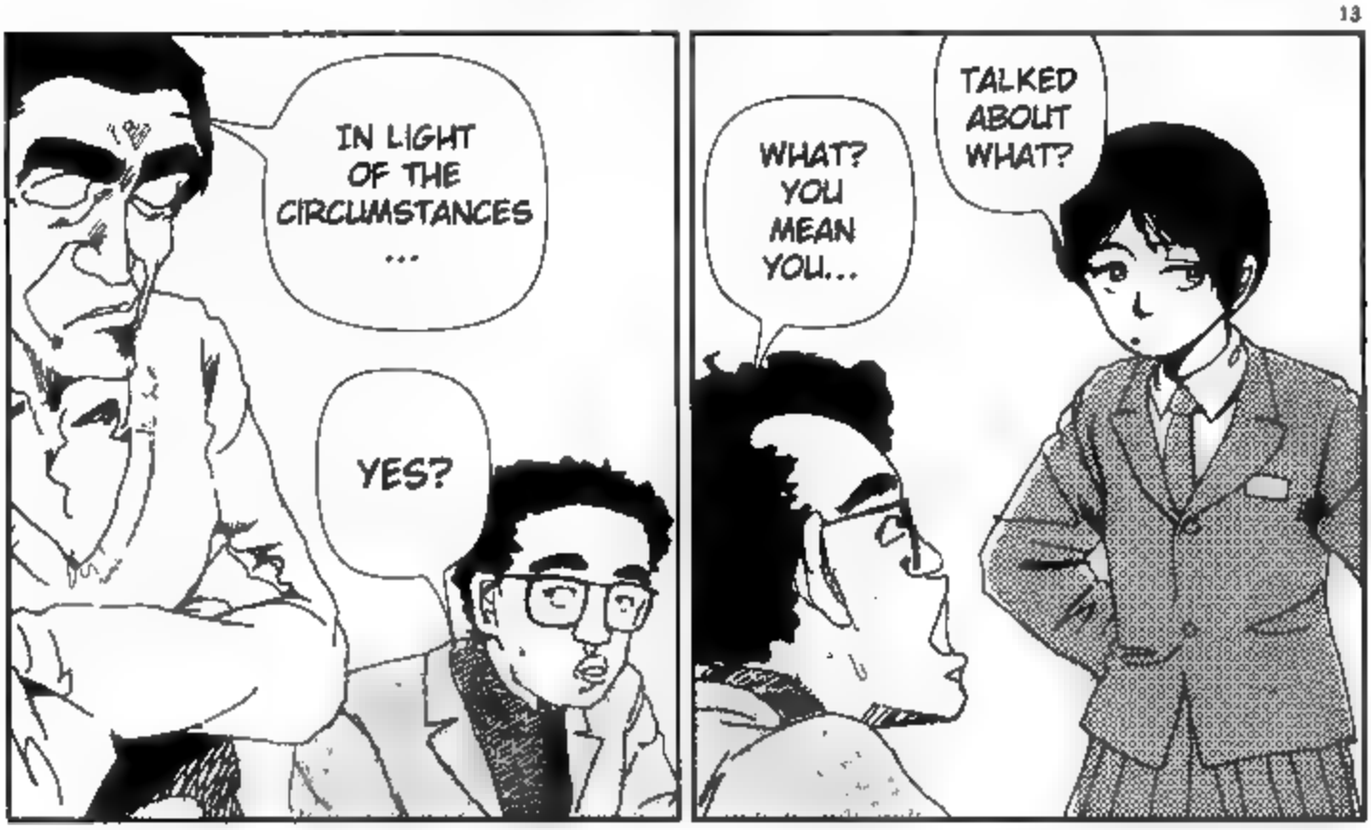

I'M NOT SPEAKING OF PHYSICAL ABUSE! I MEAN SOMETHING MORE PERVASIVE, THE *MENTAL* ANGUISH OF IT ALL!!
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING, SIR.


YOU CAN'T TRY TO PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES NOW. I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT SINCE THAT INCIDENT THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY TROUBLE, NO FIGHTS, NO INJURIES...


IT'S REALLY NOT LIKE THAT, IS IT SUZUKI-KUN? JUST LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT.
THE CONCERNED PARTY IS RIGHT HERE, PLEADING HER CASE DIRECTLY TO YOU!



13

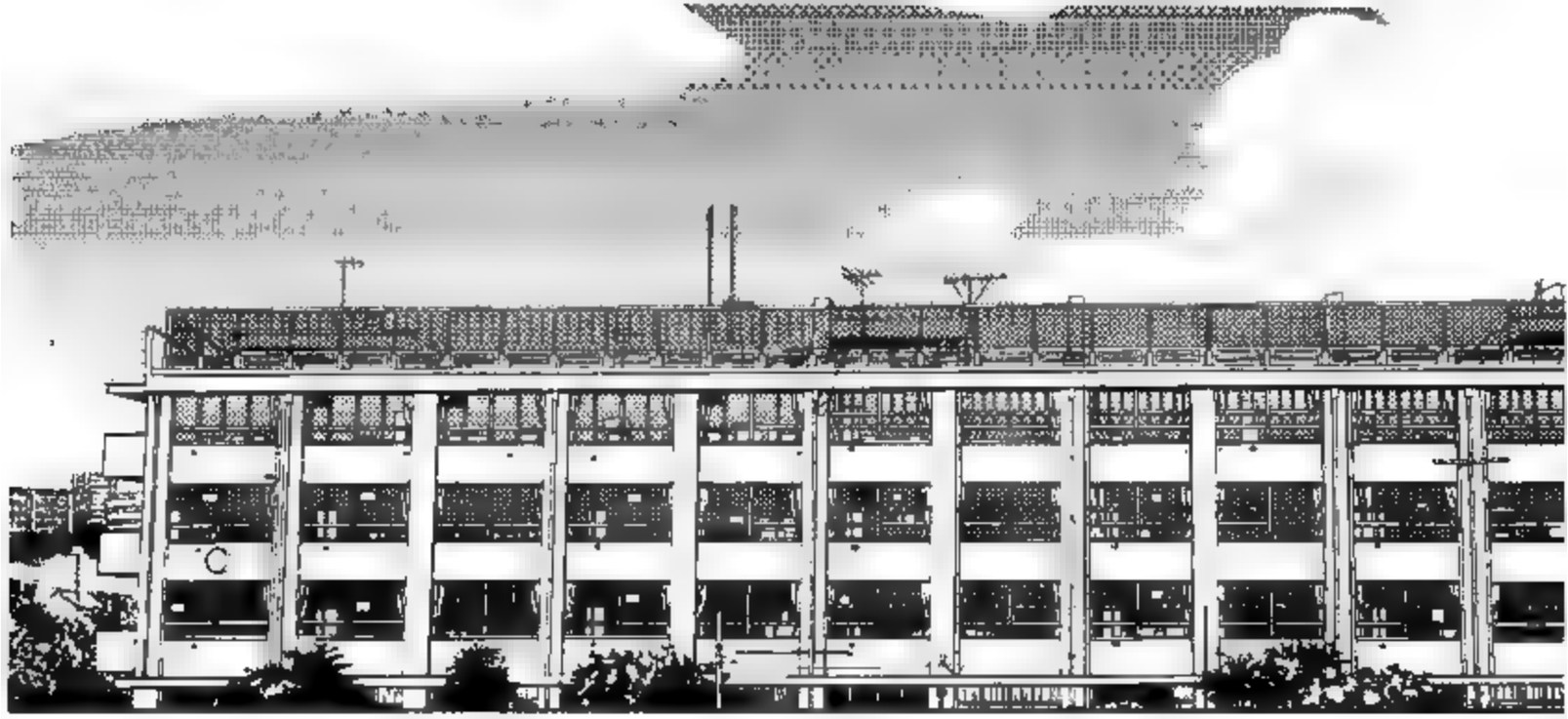

IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES ...
YES?
WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU...
TALKED ABOUT WHAT?

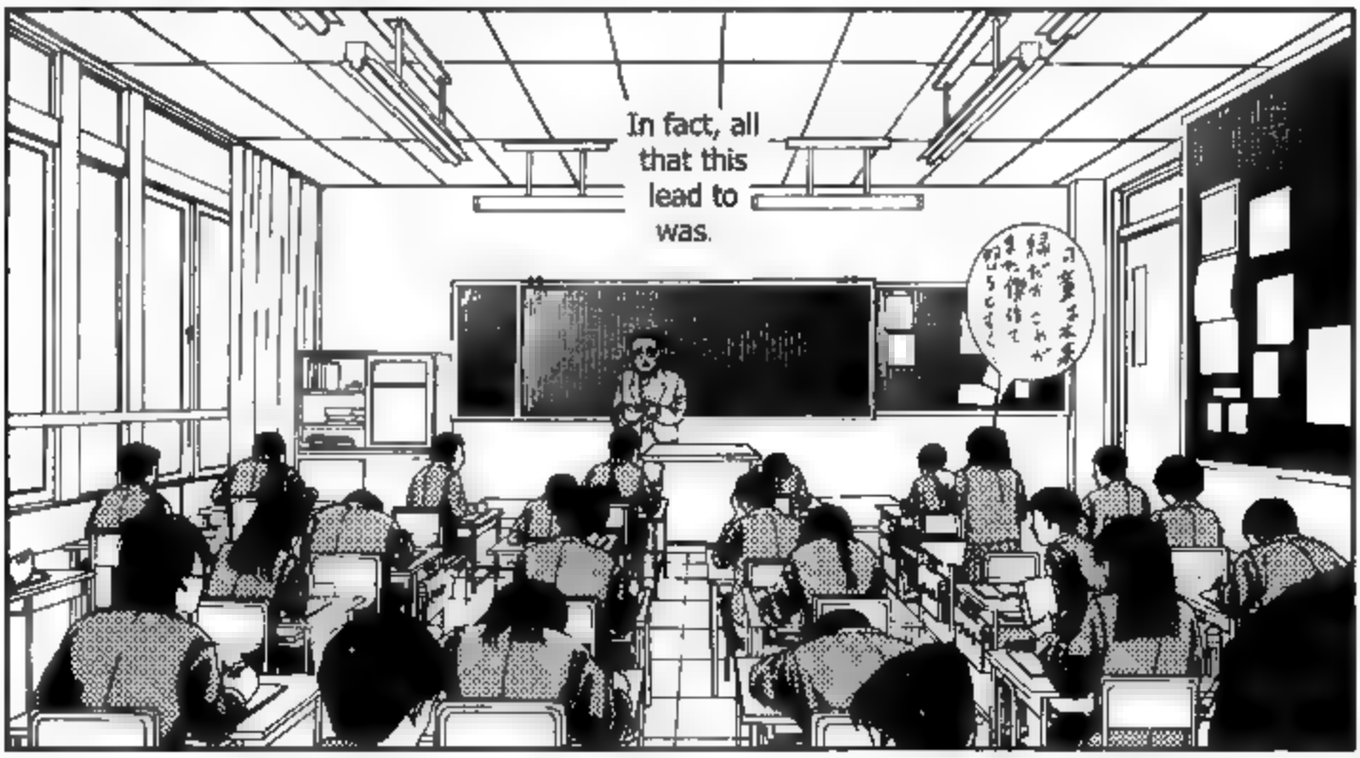

I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ENTRUST MY OWN CHILD'S SAFETY TO THIS SCHOOL.
WE WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE MEASURES INTO OUR OWN HANDS.


NOW, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND RUN WITH MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS?
WHAT? YOU MEAN, TRANSFER RING...?

14







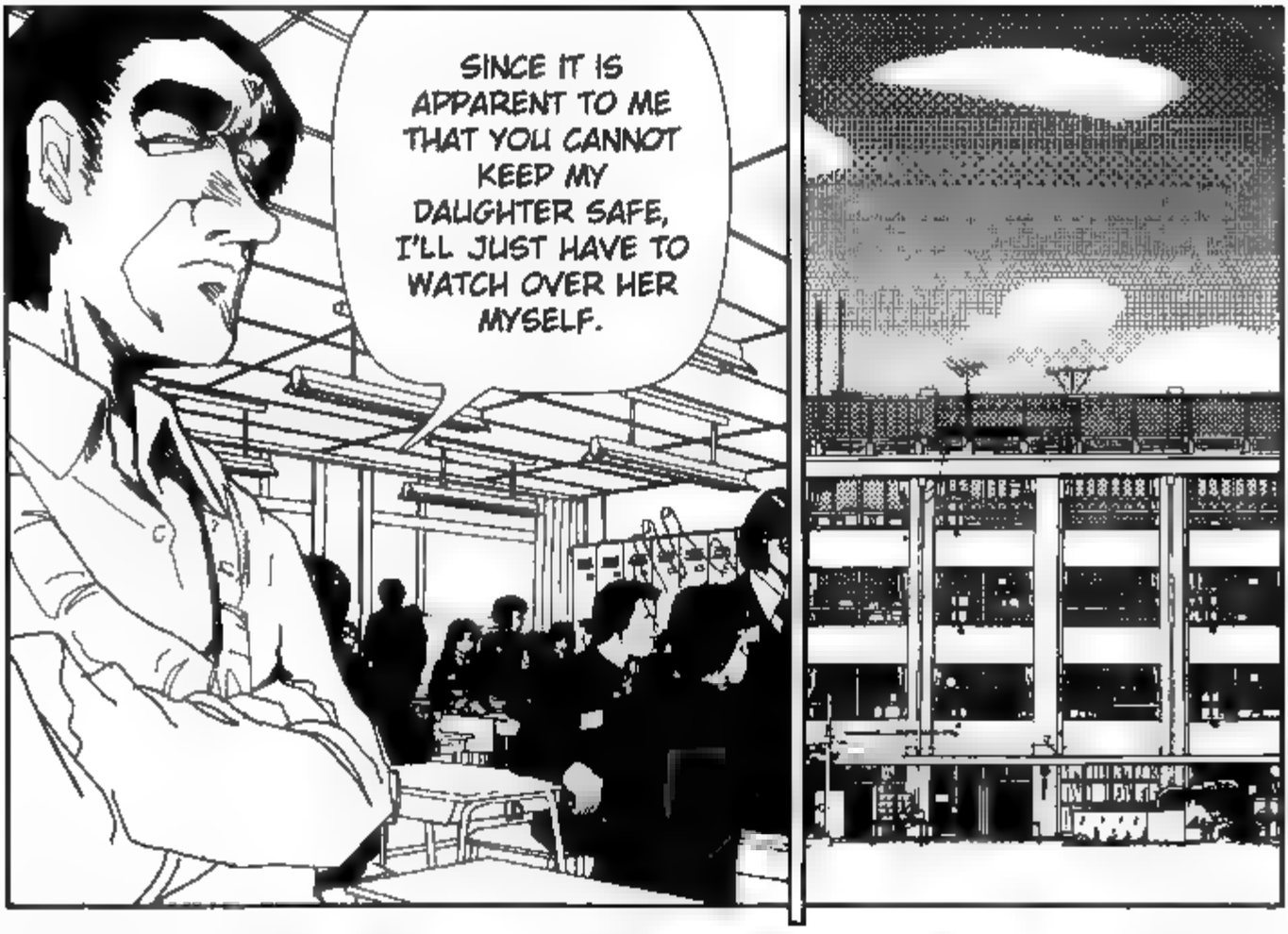
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SINCE IT IS APPARENT TO ME THAT YOU CANNOT KEEP MY DAUGHTER SAFE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO WATCH OVER HER MYSELF.

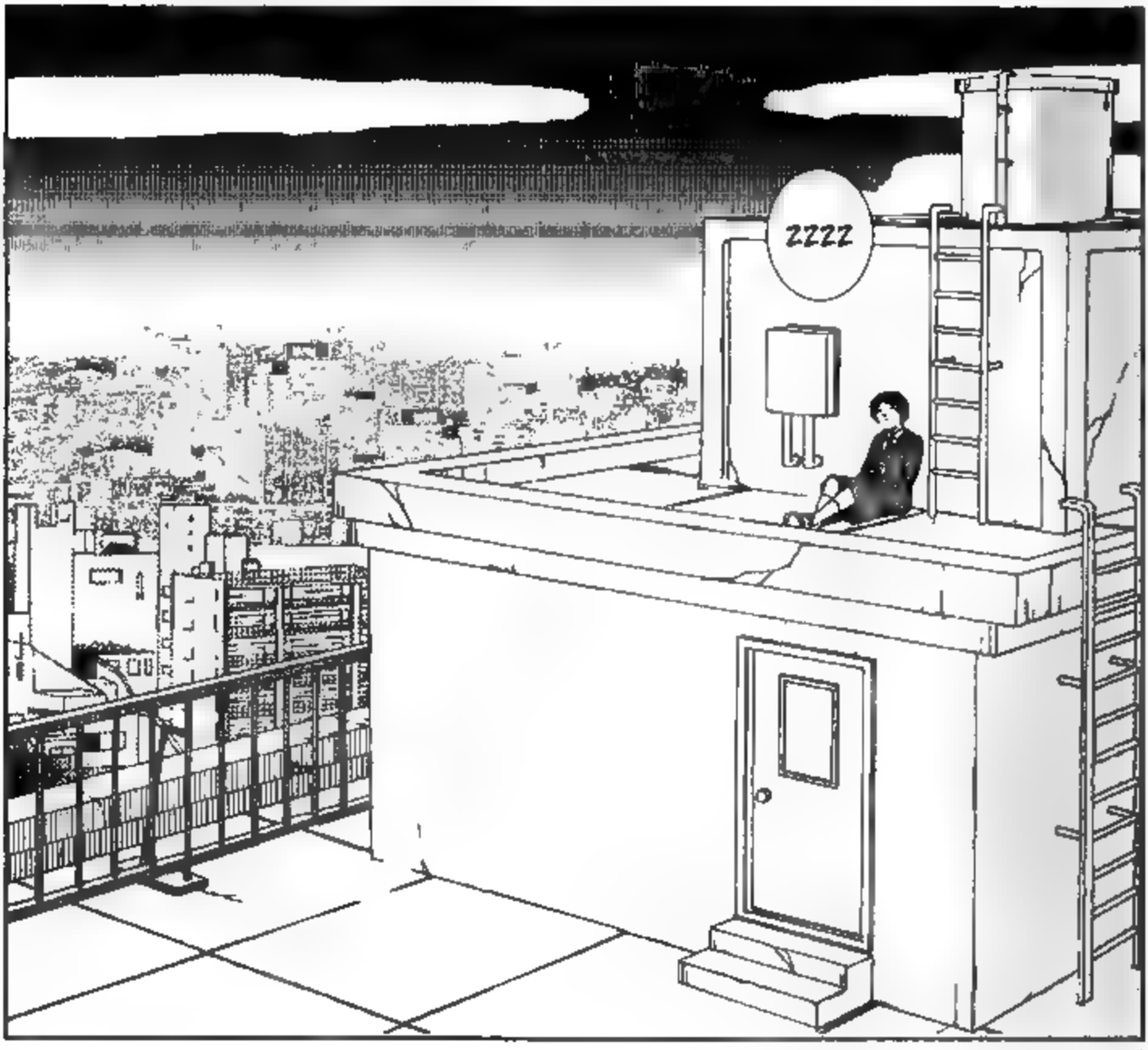

DON'T MIND ME. PLEASE, CONTINUE WITH YOUR LESSON.
SIR, DON'T YOU HAVE A JOB TO GO TO...

17


DON'T MIND ME.
SIR ...



18



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STEPHEN PAUL

MOM STANDS BENEATH CLEAR SKIES

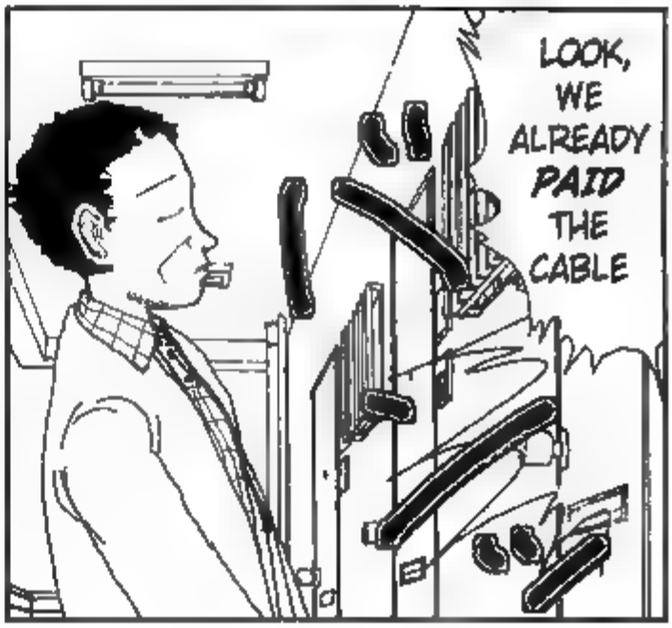



IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.


ARE YOU EXPERIENCING TROUBLES IN YOUR LIFE? I BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO GAIN HAPPINESS FOR THEMSELVES.
I'VE COME TO PAY THIS VISIT TODAY BEARING WONDERFUL NEWS FOR YOU AND YOURS.

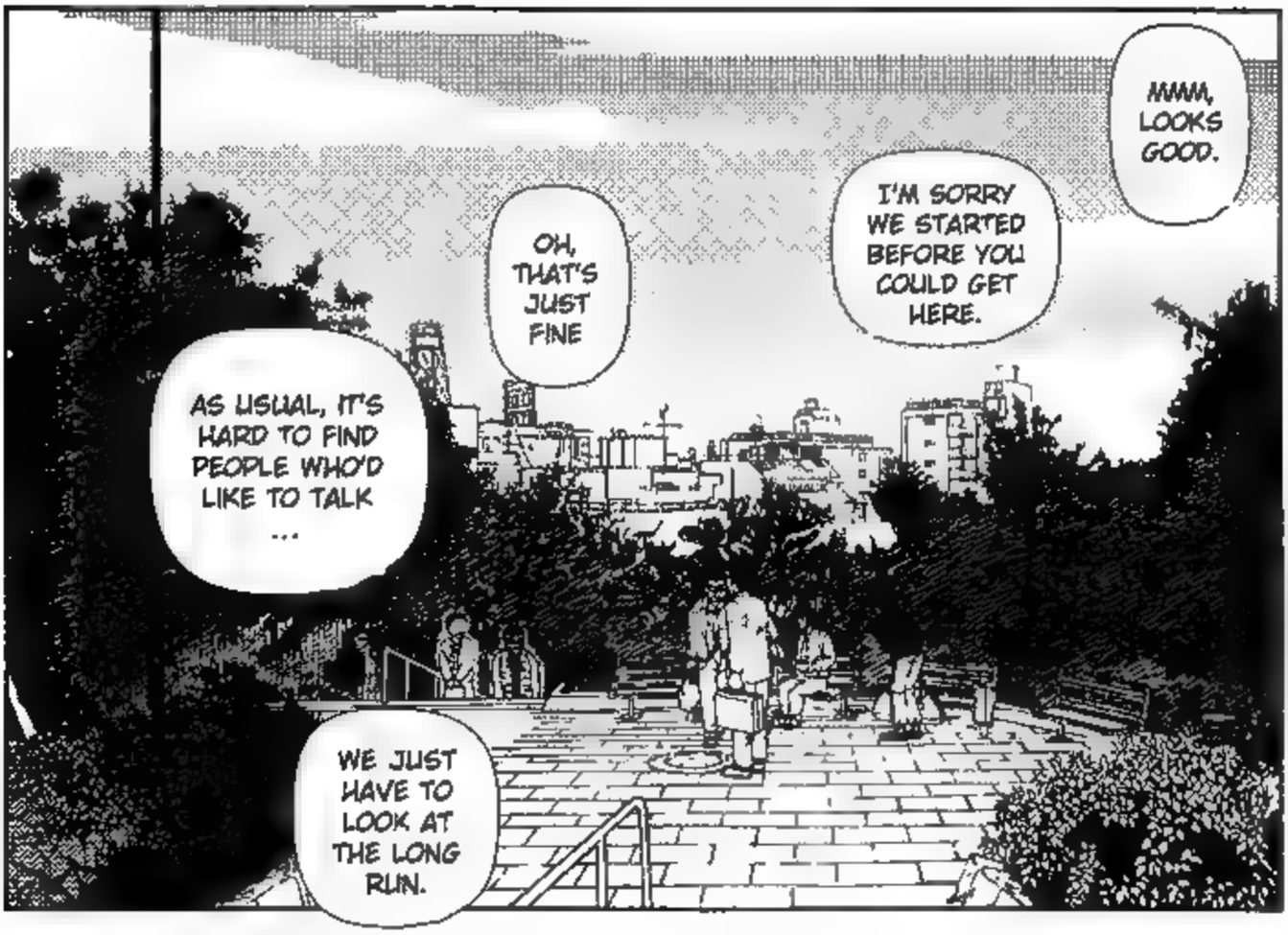
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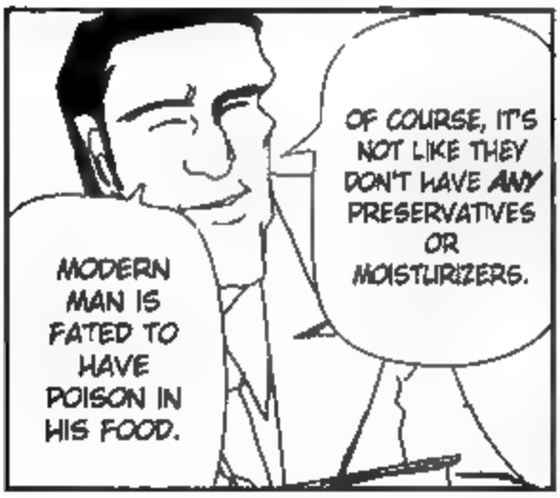



LOOK, WE ALREADY PAID THE CABLE

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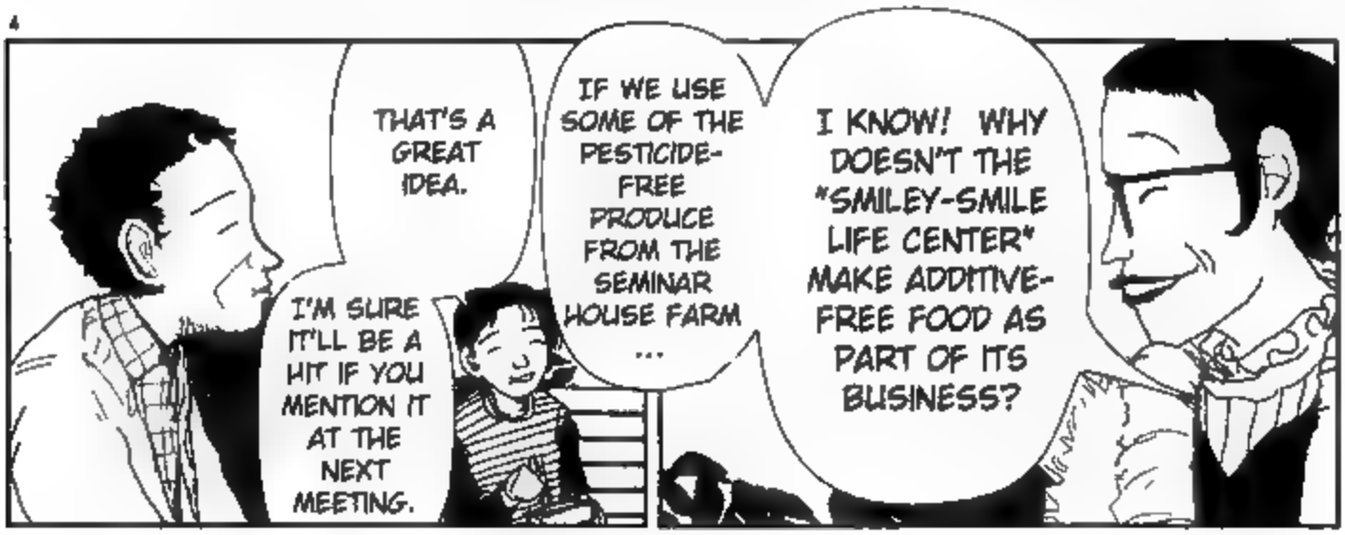

WHY DON'T WE GO AHEAD AND GET SOME LUNCH.
SUZUKI-SAN.
IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL BLOOM, TOO. I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR.
I JUST PASSED A HOUSE WITH THEIR PLUM TREES IN FULL BLOOM. IT WAS GORGEOUS.
IT ALWAYS TAKES A MENTAL EFFORT TO GO OUT AND DO DOOR-TO-DOOR.
PLUS IT'S NICE WHEN THE WEATHER GETS WARMER. I TAKE TO THE CHILL TOO EASILY.
3
HEYA.


MMM, LOOKS GOOD.
I'M SORRY WE STARTED BEFORE YOU COULD GET HERE.
OH, THAT'S JUST FINE
AS USUAL, IT'S HARD TO FIND PEOPLE WHO'D LIKE TO TALK ...
WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK AT THE LONG RUN.

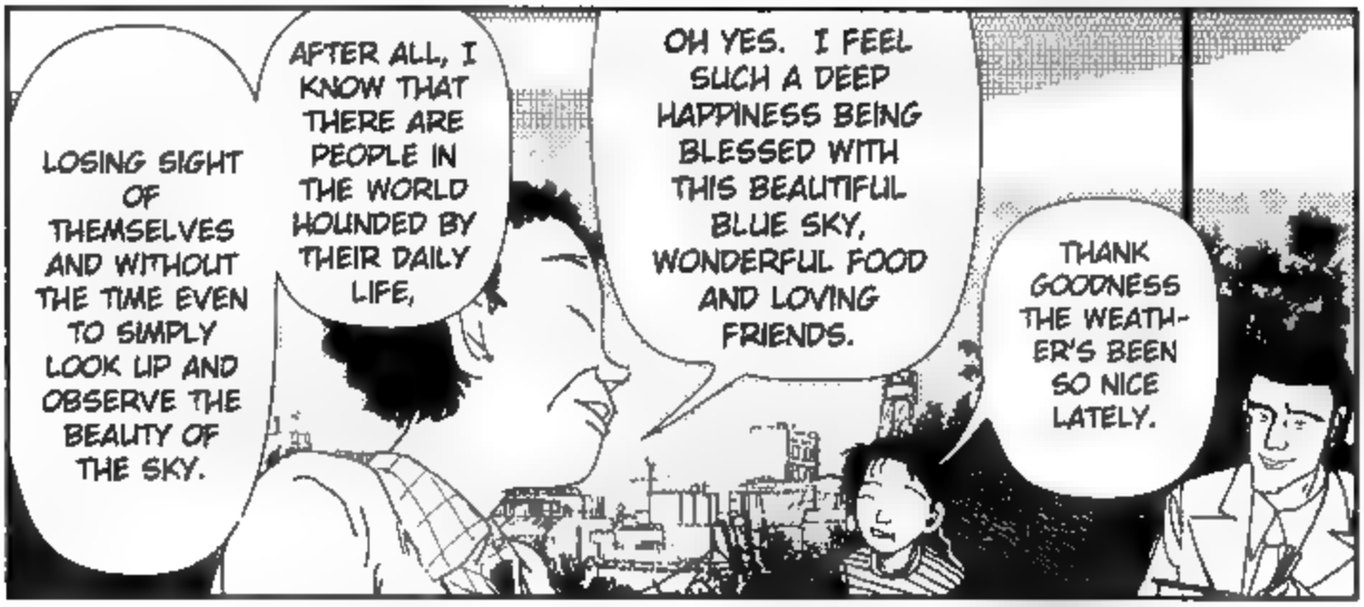

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PRESERVATIVES OR MOISTURIZERS.
MODERN MAN IS FATED TO HAVE POISON IN HIS FOOD.

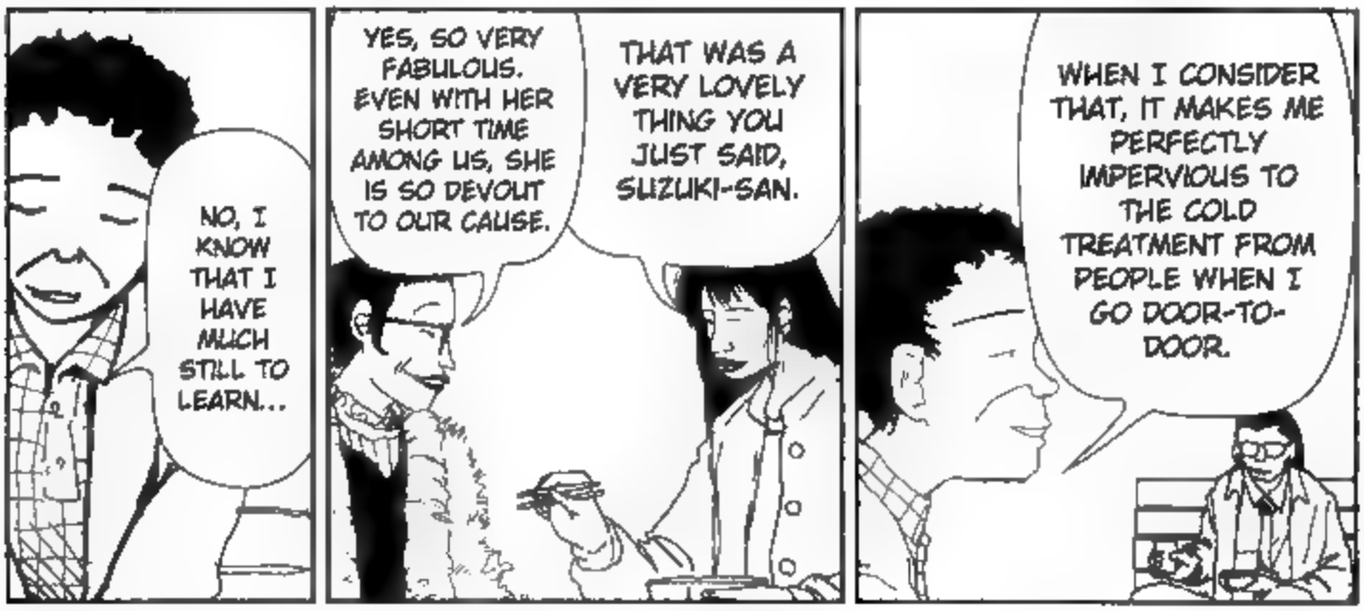

HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
THEY DON'T GO OVERBOARD WITH THE ADDITIVES.
THE FOOD FROM THIS PLACE IS GREAT.

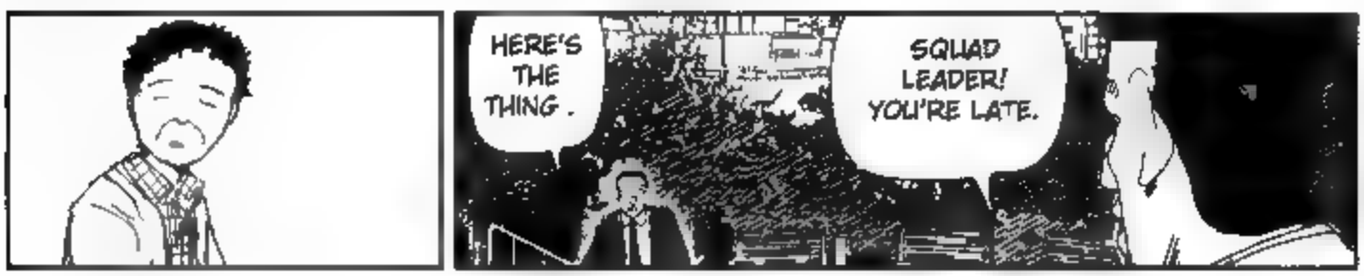
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THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE A HIT IF YOU MENTION IT AT THE NEXT MEETING.
IF WE USE SOME OF THE PESTICIDE-FREE PRODUCE FROM THE SEMINAR HOUSE FARM ...
I KNOW! WHY DOESN'T THE "SMILEY-SMILE LIFE CENTER" MAKE ADDITIVE-FREE FOOD AS PART OF ITS BUSINESS?

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LOSING SIGHT OF THEMSELVES AND WITHOUT THE TIME EVEN TO SIMPLY LOOK UP AND OBSERVE THE BEAUTY OF THE SKY.
AFTER ALL, I KNOW THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HOUNDED BY THEIR DAILY LIFE,
OH YES. I FEEL SUCH A DEEP HAPPINESS BEING BLESSED WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL BLUE SKY, WONDERFUL FOOD AND LOVING FRIENDS.
THANK GOODNESS THE WEATHER'S BEEN SO NICE LATELY.

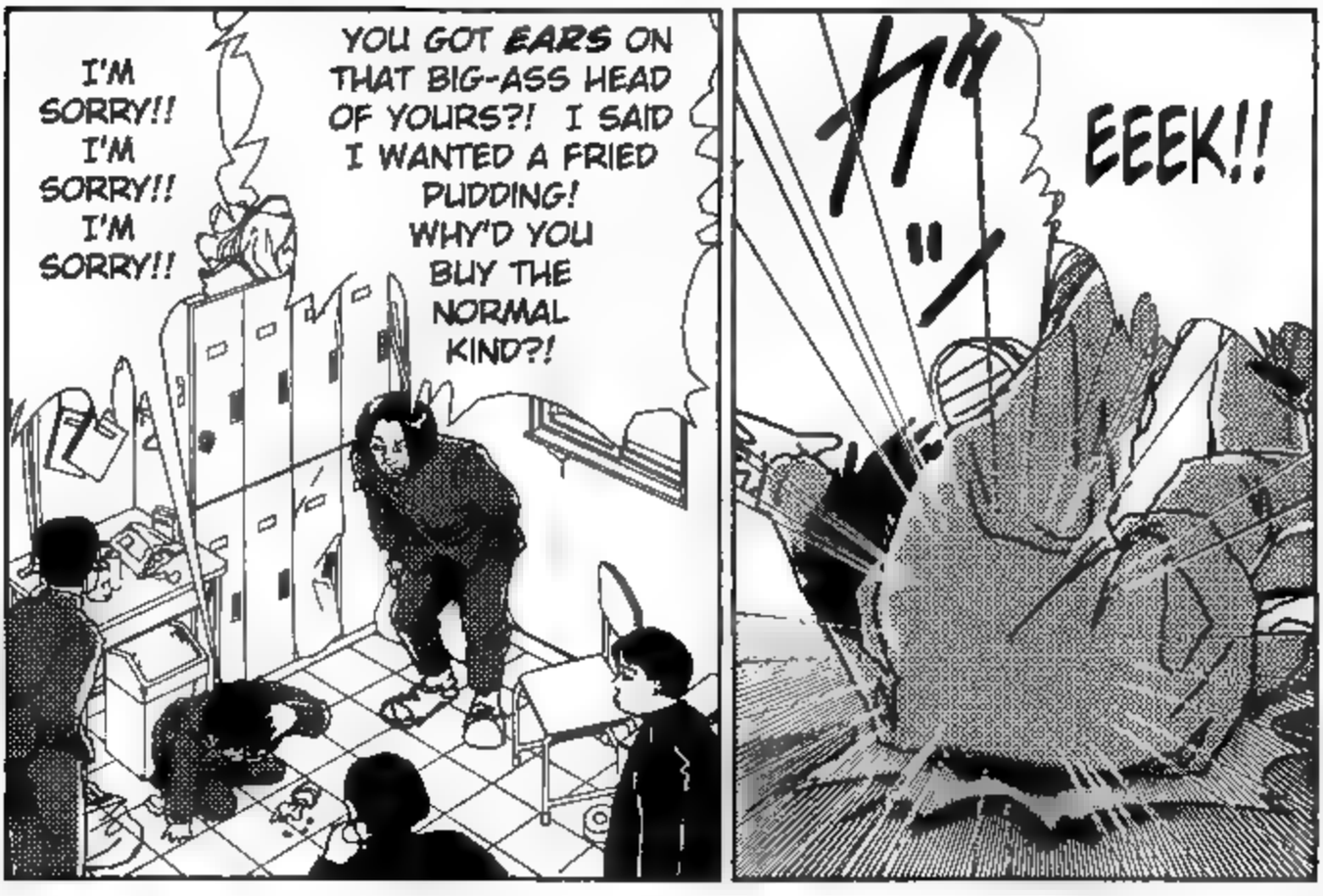

NO, I KNOW THAT I HAVE MUCH STILL TO LEARN...
YES, SO VERY FABULOUS. EVEN WITH HER SHORT TIME AMONG US, SHE IS SO DEVOUT TO OUR CAUSE.
THAT WAS A VERY LOVELY THING YOU JUST SAID, SUZUKI-SAN.
WHEN I CONSIDER THAT, IT MAKES ME PERFECTLY IMPERVIOUS TO THE COLD TREATMENT FROM PEOPLE WHEN I GO DOOR-TO-DOOR.


HERE'S THE THING .
SQUAD LEADER! YOU'RE LATE.

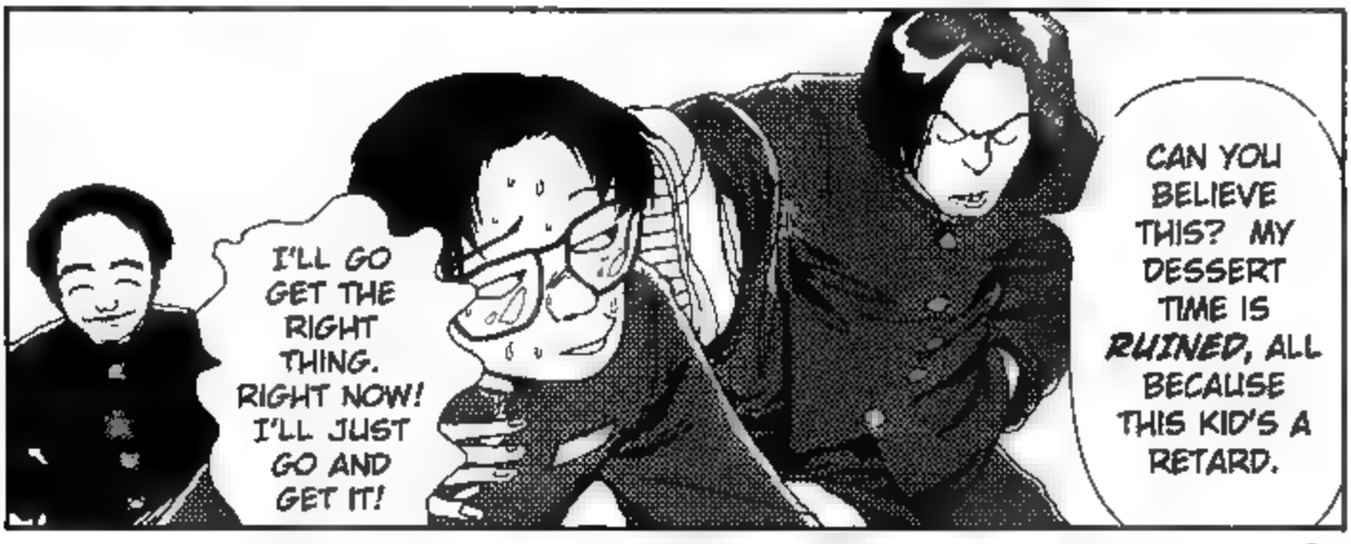
5


AND YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HAPPENED ...
I JUST GOT A PAGE FROM HEAD-QUARTERS. SO I CALLED THEM BACK.


YOU LITTLE BITCH!!


I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!!
YOU GOT EARS ON THAT BIG-ASS HEAD OF YOURS?! I SAID I WANTED A FRIED PUDDING! WHY'D YOU BUY THE NORMAL KIND?!
EEEK!!

6

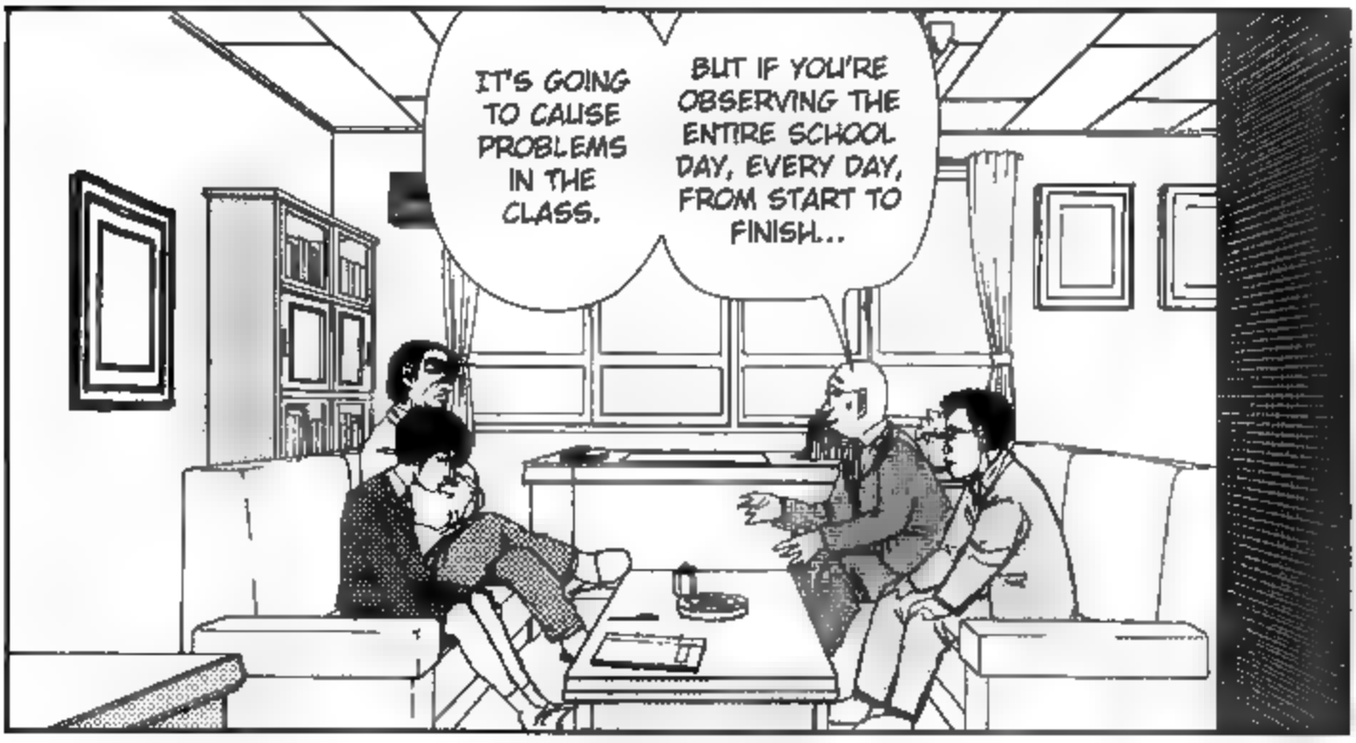

I'LL GO GET THE RIGHT THING. RIGHT NOW! I'LL JUST GO AND GET IT!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? MY DESSERT TIME IS RUINED, ALL BECAUSE THIS KID'S A RETARD.

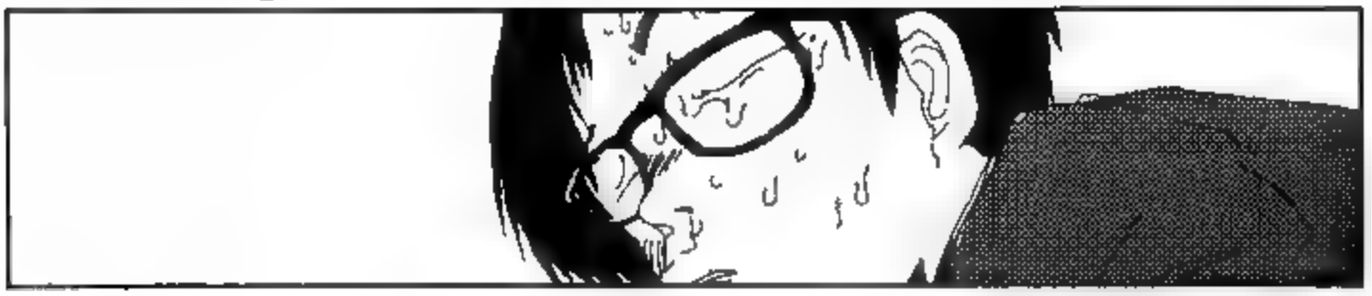

THE PROBLEM IS, WHAT ABOUT THE MENTAL ANGUISH I'VE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THIS? NOW THAT I'VE BASICALLY BEEN HUMILIATED BY A LITTLE BUG!
I... I DIDN'T HUMILIATE YOU...
HEY JACKASS! IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU CAN'T FIX THE PROBLEM WITH THAT NOW!
I'M SORRY. I'M REALLY REALLY SORRY.
DON'T GIMME YOUR EXCUSES!!
I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!!
はっきばき
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY! ANYTHING!! JUST FORGIVE ME!!
FOOD GRUDGES ARE WICKED, DUDE.
AHA! I KNOW.
HMMM, NOW HOW SHOULD I HAVE THIS MADE UP TO ME?
YEAH, YOU NEED SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE UP FOR THE WOUNDS TO YOUR FRAGILE HEART.


GYA-HA-HAHA HA!
OH MY GOD, HOW DO YOU THINK UP SHIT LIKE THAT?
THAT'S TERRIBLE! I LOVE IT.
HOW ABOUT YOU JACK OFF, RIGHT HERE.
WHAAAAT ?


I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU'RE CON-CERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD.

8


IT'S GOING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS IN THE CLASS.
BUT IF YOU'RE OBSERVING THE ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY, EVERY DAY, FROM START TO FINISH...



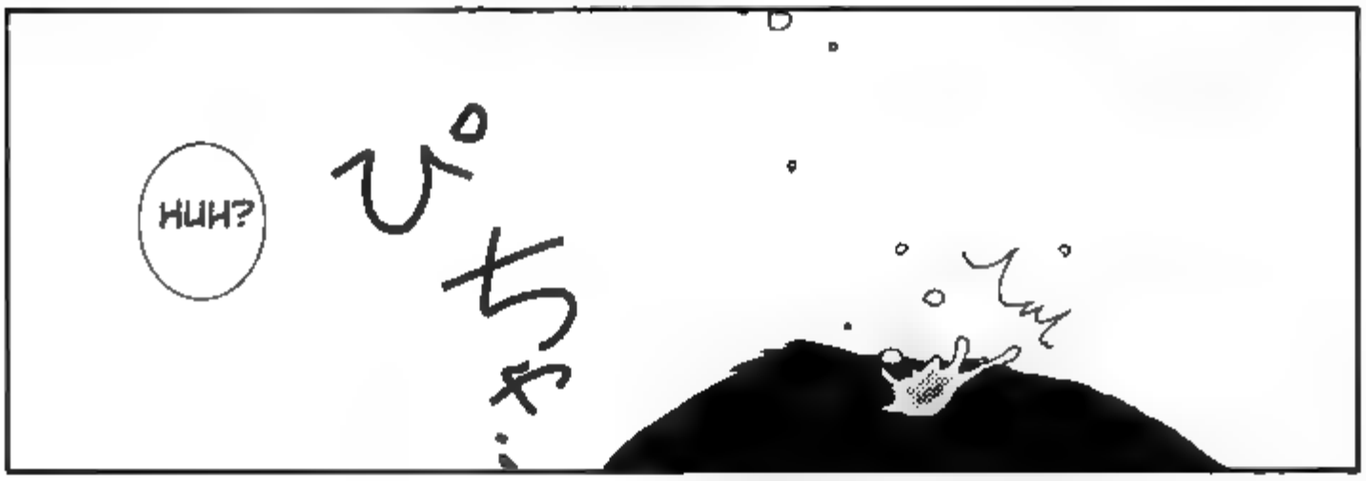

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PASS THIS OFF WITH THESE TRITE GENERALITIES? I'M HERE ACTING IN MY OWN INTERESTS, BECAUSE I HAVE DECIDED THAT MY DAUGHTER IS BEING EXPOSED TO DANGER.
JUST THINK ABOUT IT. IF WE HAD EVERY CONCERNED PARENT STANDING AT THE BACK OF EACH CLASS, IT WOULD BE OUT OF CONTROL. THERE COULD BE NO EDUCATION.
BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE THE KIND OF PROBLEMS YOU'RE THINKING OF.

9


C'MON, KEEP PUMPING. YOU GOTTA GO ALL THE WAY.
IS HE RETARDED?
DUDE, HE'S ACTUALLY DOING IT.

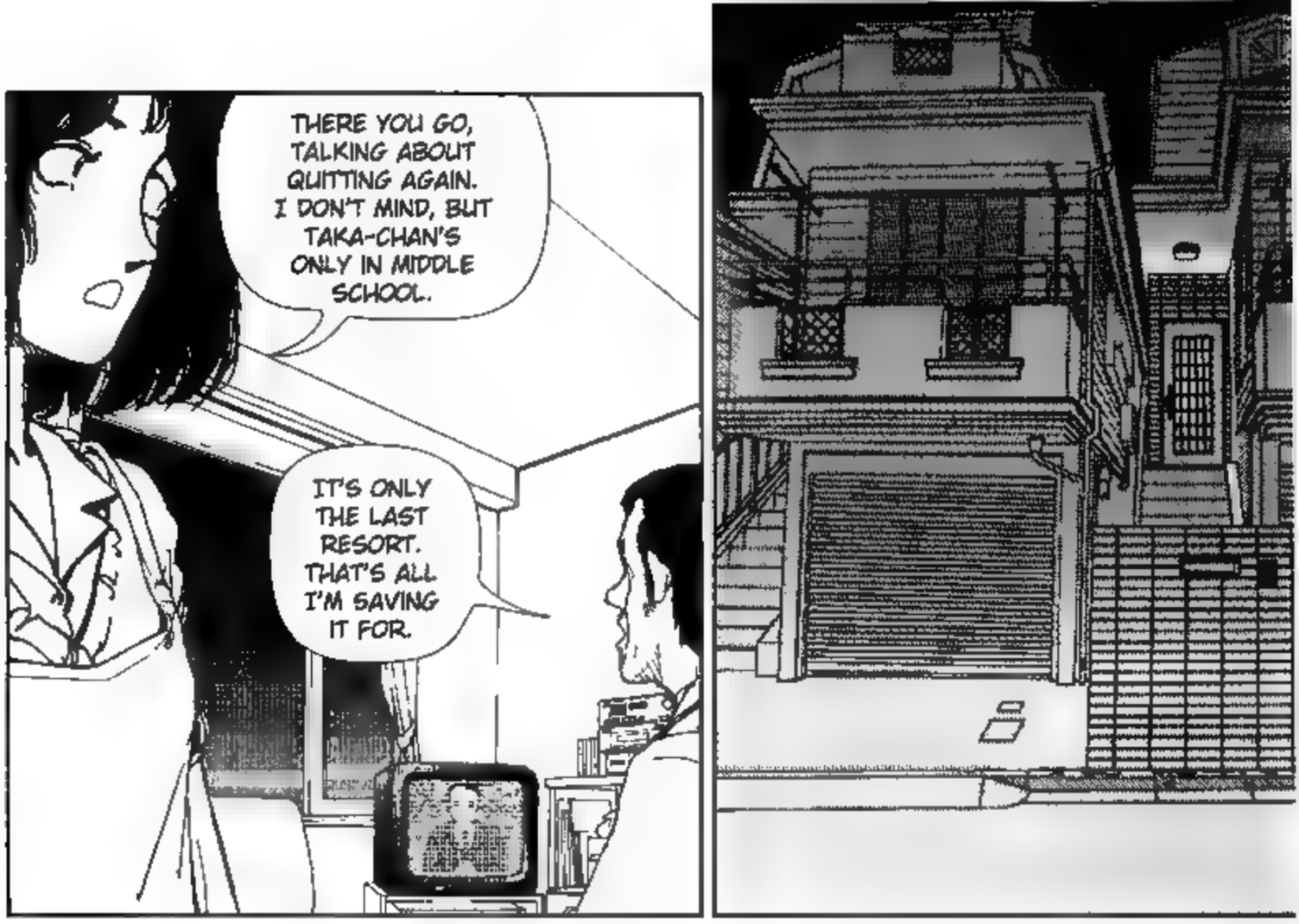

URK!
SO YOU JUST... YOU JUST WANT ME TO GO HOME?! STAY HOME AND WATCH AS MY DAUGHTER DIES?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! CALM DOWN, SIR !!
VERY WELL. WE'LL HOLD A FULL INVESTIGATION, TAKE A HARD LOOK AT EVERYTHING, WITH AN INTENT TO FULLY PUNISH ANY WRONGDOING.
HEY, DOES IT FEEL GOOD? FEELS GOOD, DON'T IT?
IF IT FEELS GOOD, SAY IT. SAY IT FEELS GOOD.
HE'S AN IDIOT. THIS KID IS A TOTAL IDIOT.
IT...
IT FEELS GOOD...
MY POINT IS THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU! YOU ARE UNTRUSTWORTHY !
I CAN TELL THAT ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS NOT BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING!!


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A BUNCH OF MECHANICAL ROBOTS TALK ABOUT "EDUCATION." YOU DON'T NEED TO ATTEND A PLACE LIKE THIS.
.....


HUH?
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11


...IS IT RAINING?

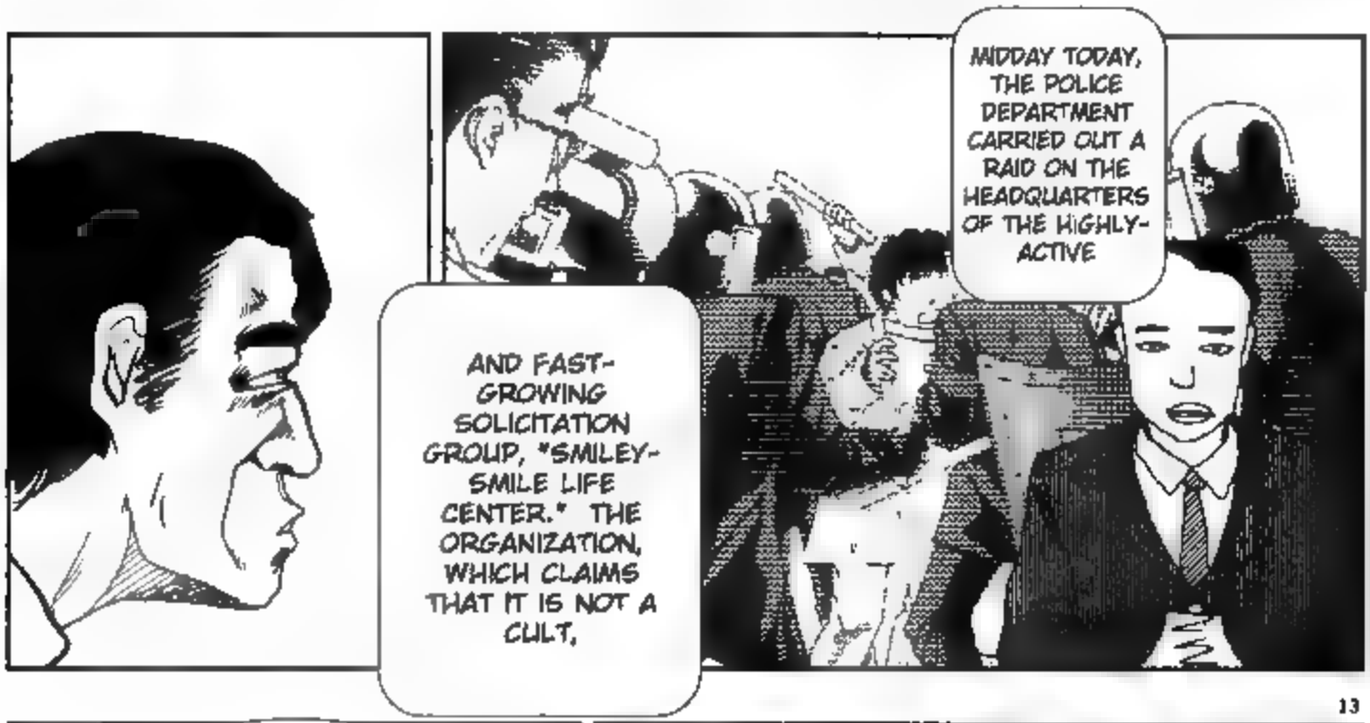

THERE YOU GO, TALKING ABOUT QUITTING AGAIN. I DON'T MIND, BUT TAKA-CHAN'S ONLY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
IT'S ONLY THE LAST RESORT. THAT'S ALL I'M SAVING IT FOR.


AND THE UN IS LOOKING AT DEPLOYING PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS ...
THE CIVIL WAR HAS ALREADY CLAIMED OVER 5 MILLION LIVES,

12

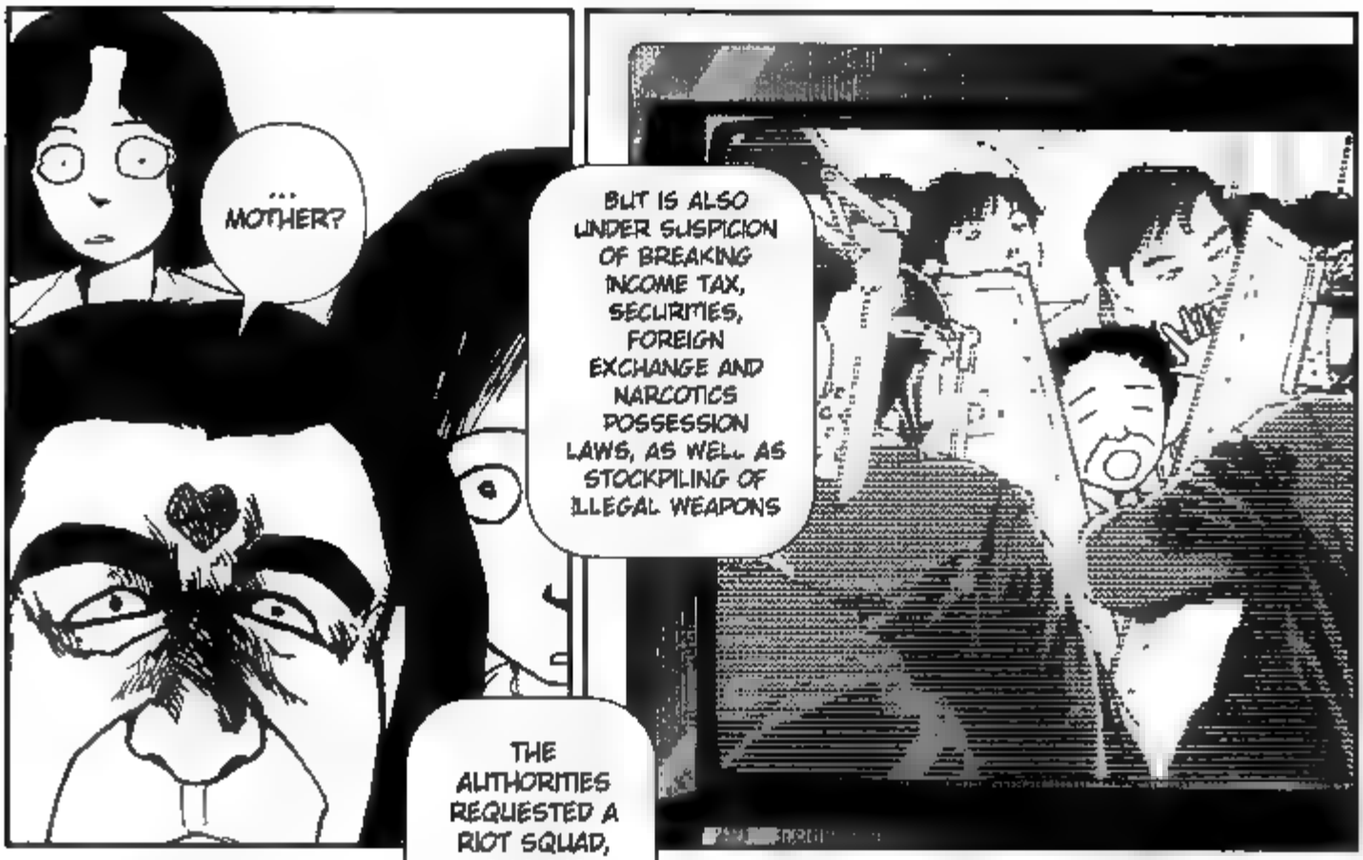

Dad likes hearing about really tragic news these days.
TO BRING STABILITY TO THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD IS IN A TERRIBLE STATE NOWADAYS?
6 O'CLOCK, 7 O'CLOCK, 9 O'CLOCK, 10 O'CLOCK! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO WATCH THE SAME NEWS BULLETIN?
NEXT IN THE NEWS,


MIDDAY TODAY, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT A RAID ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HIGHLY-ACTIVE
AND FAST-GROWING SOLICITATION GROUP, "SMILEY-SMILE LIFE CENTER." THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH CLAIMS THAT IT IS NOT A CULT,

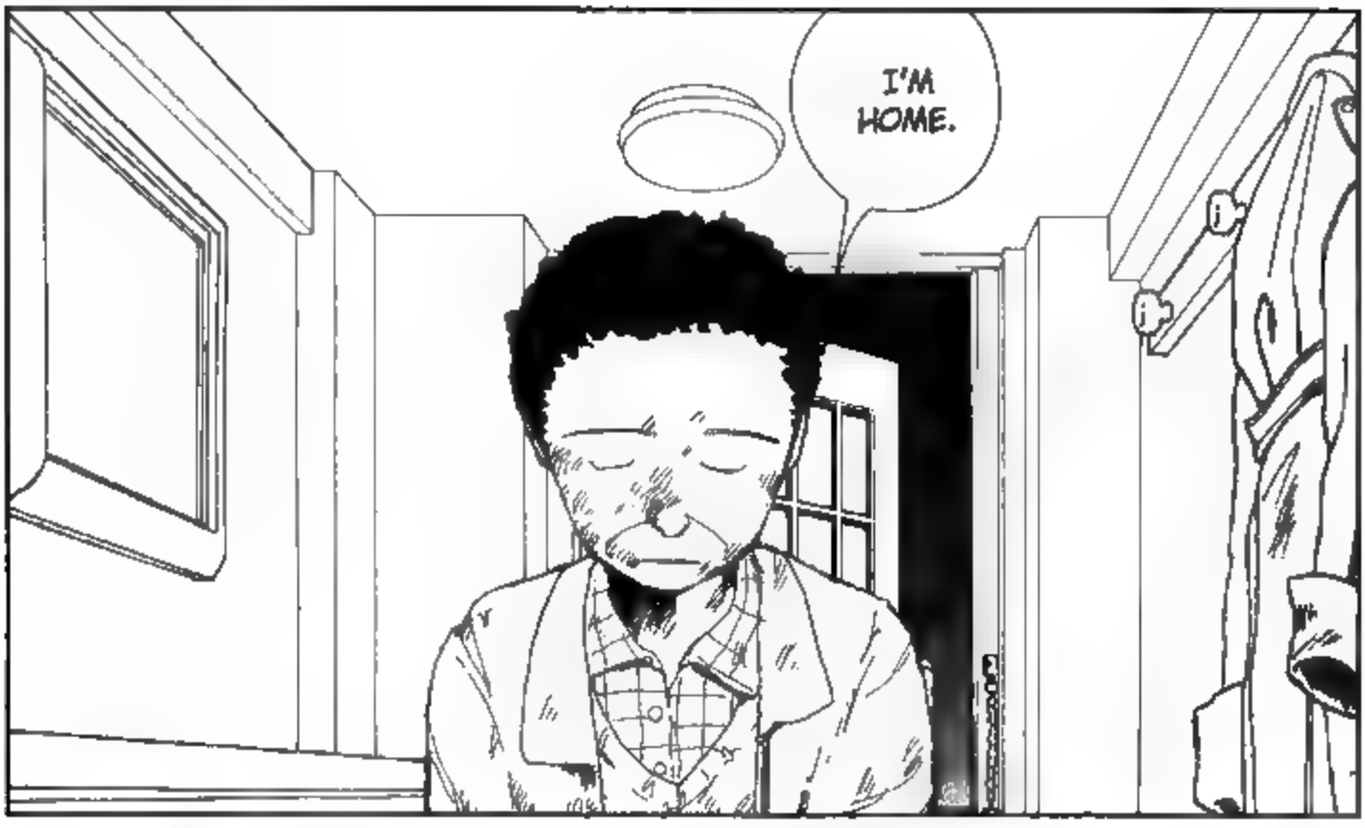
13


THAT THING THAT MOM DOES? IT IS, ISN'T IT?
ISN'T THAT...
BUT SEEKS THE "TRUE EXCHANGE OF HEARTS,"
IS SAID TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE ASSETS FROM MEMBER DONATIONS AND WIDE-RANGING ECONOMIC ACTIVIES,


...
MOTHER?
BUT IS ALSO UNDER SUSPICION OF BREAKING INCOME TAX, SECURITIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND NARCOTICS POSSESSION LAWS, AS WELL AS STOCKPILING OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS
THE AUTHORITIES REQUESTED A RIOT SQUAD, BUT THE MEMBER RESISTANCE WAS SO FIERCE THAT..

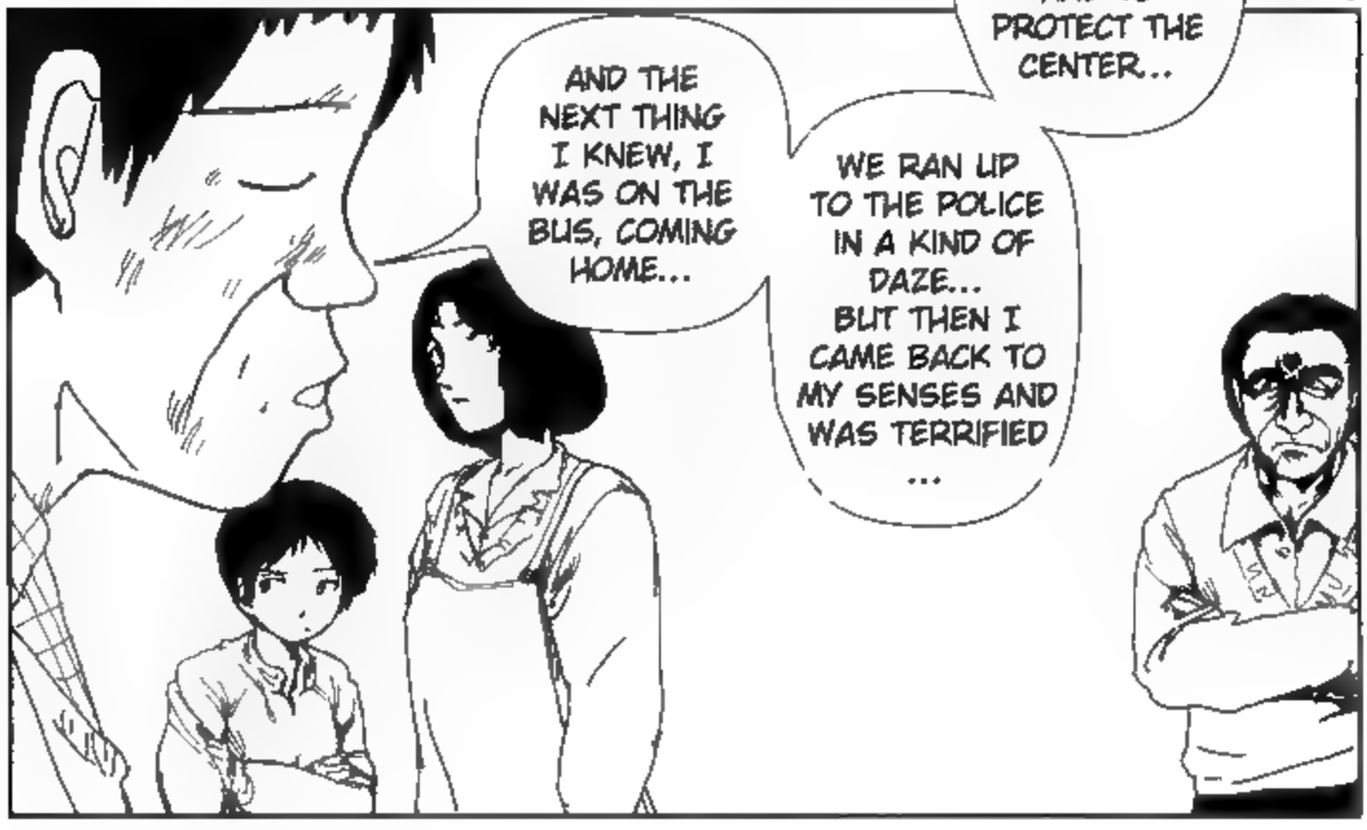
14




I'M HOME.


BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE, THERE WAS ALREADY AN INCREDIBLE UPROAR. WE HAD TO PROTECT THE CENTER..

15


AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS ON THE BUS, COMING HOME...
WE RAN UP TO THE POLICE IN A KIND OF DAZE... BUT THEN I CAME BACK TO MY SENSES AND WAS TERRIFIED ...


LOOK, I KNOW YOU HATE THEM, BUT AT LEAST SHE GOT TO COME BACK HOME, SO...
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT,
SO WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SAID, I'M BACK TO MY SENSES. PLEASE LET ME RETURN TO MY FAMILY?
THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NATIONALLY IDENTIFIED SUZUKI SAKURA (45) AS THE GROUP'S CHAIRPERSON.
IT IS EXPECTED THAT A FULL REVEALING OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXTENT WILL BE MADE UPON HER ARREST, INCLUDING POSSIBLE TIES TO THE CURRENT RULING PARTY IN GOVERNMENT...
Chairperson Suzuki
16
ACTUALLY ...


I LENT MY NAME TO THE GROUP, ON TONDABAYASHI-SAN'S REQUEST.
ACCORDING TO HIS EXPLANATION, SUUMA-SENSEI'S FREE AND UNFETTERED FIGHT AGAINST THE EVILS OF THE WORLD HAS LEFT HIM WITH MANY ENEMIES, AND UNABLE TO COME OUT IN PUBLIC ANYMORE.
I SIGNED THE DOCUMENT ON HIS PROMISE THAT IT WOULDN'T CAUSE ME ANY TROUBLE, AND THAT I WOULD RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, AND NO-QUESTIONS-ASKED LOANS.

17




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DAAAAAD!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT AS LONG AS YOU TELL THEM EVERYTHING, THE WHOLE TRUTH, THEY'LL LET OUR FAMILY GO?

18


I BELIEVE THE LADY OF THE HOUSE IS HERE? WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A LITTLE DISCUSSION...
PARDON THE LATE VISIT.

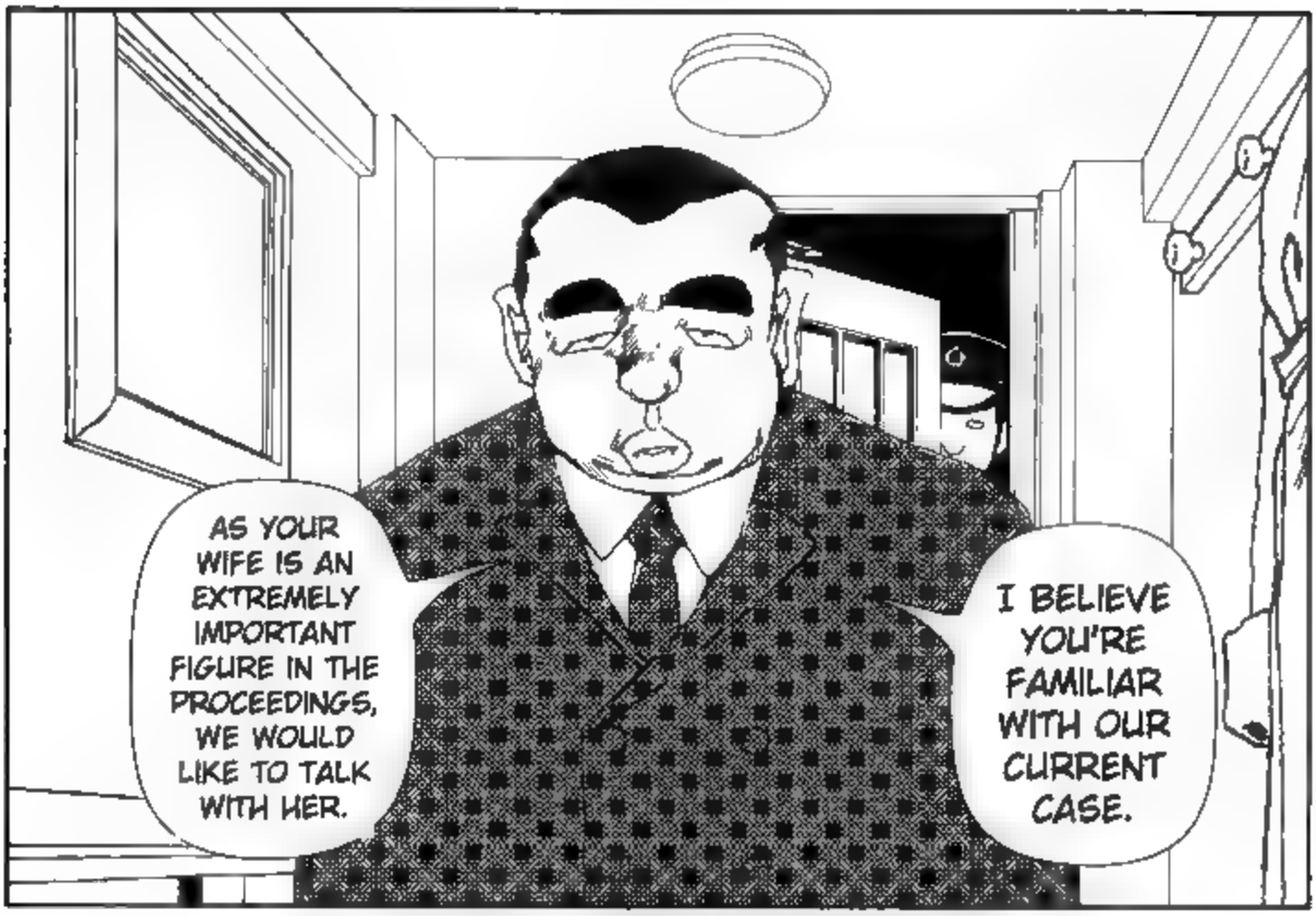
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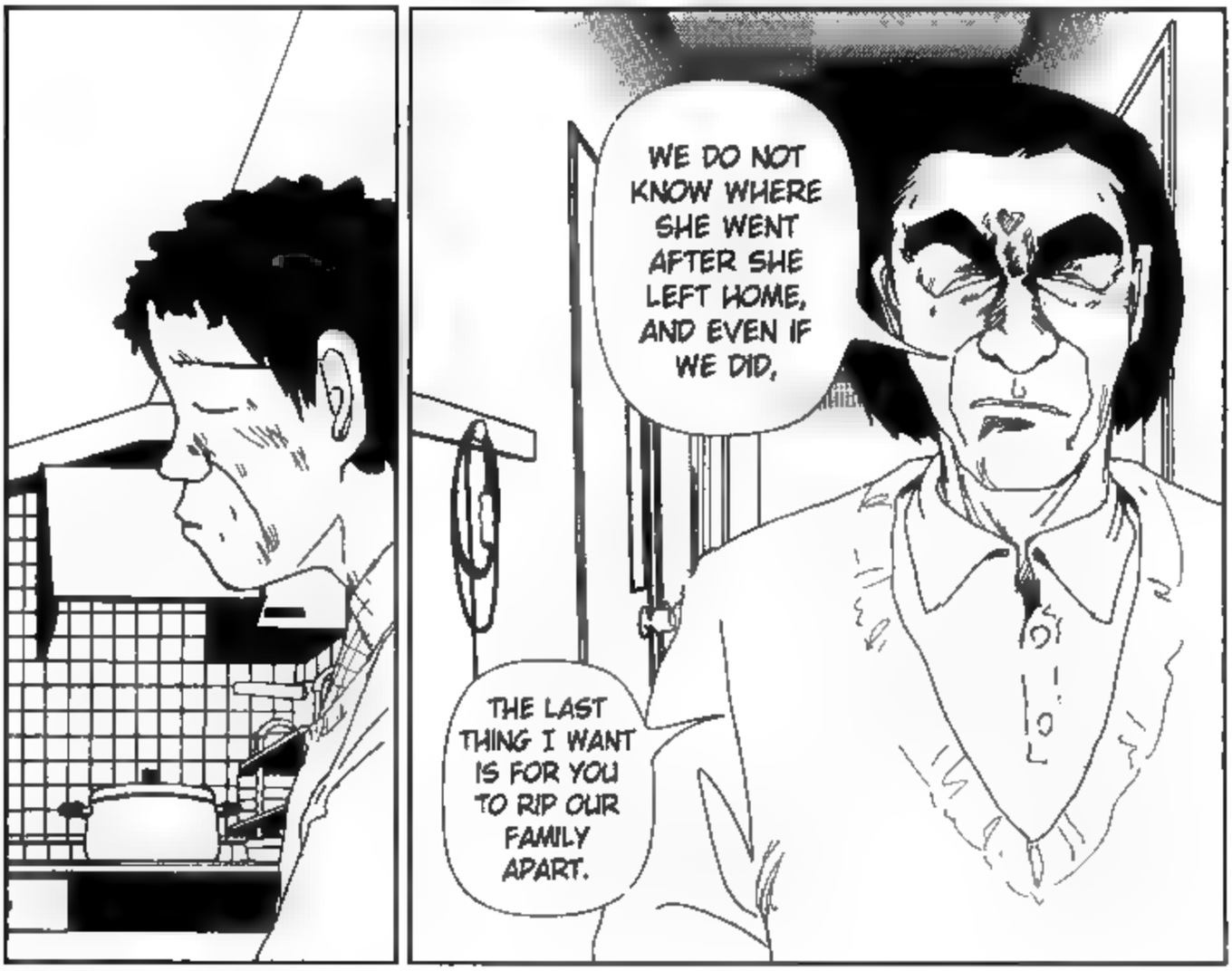
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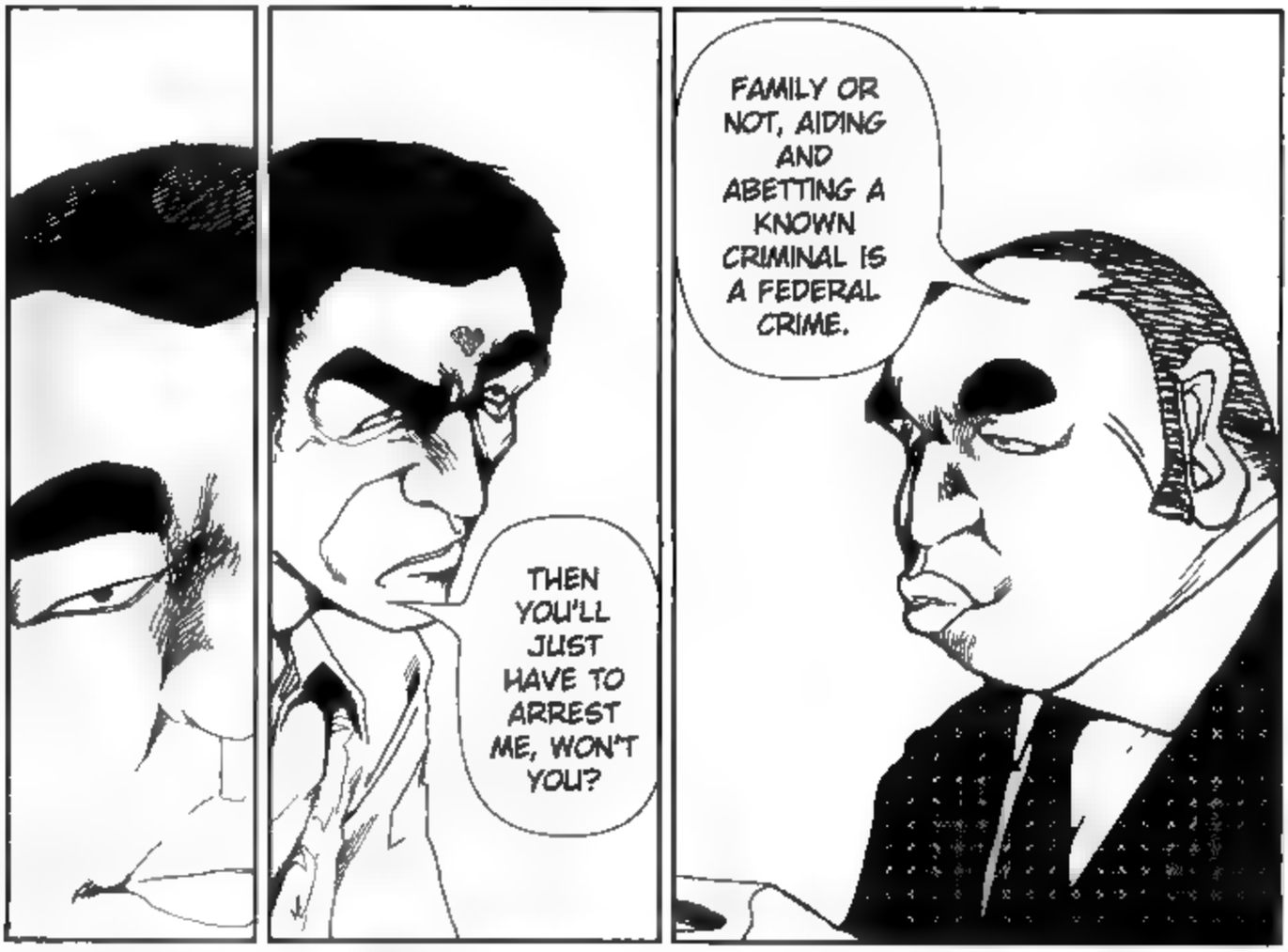


47 PEOPLE PRESS IN


I BELIEVE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH OUR CURRENT CASE.
AS YOUR WIFE IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE PROCEEDINGS, WE WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH HER.

2


WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE SHE WENT AFTER SHE LEFT HOME, AND EVEN IF WE DID,
THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR YOU TO RIP OUR FAMILY APART.


THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO ARREST ME, WON'T YOU?
FAMILY OR NOT, AIDING AND ABETTING A KNOWN CRIMINAL IS A FEDERAL CRIME.

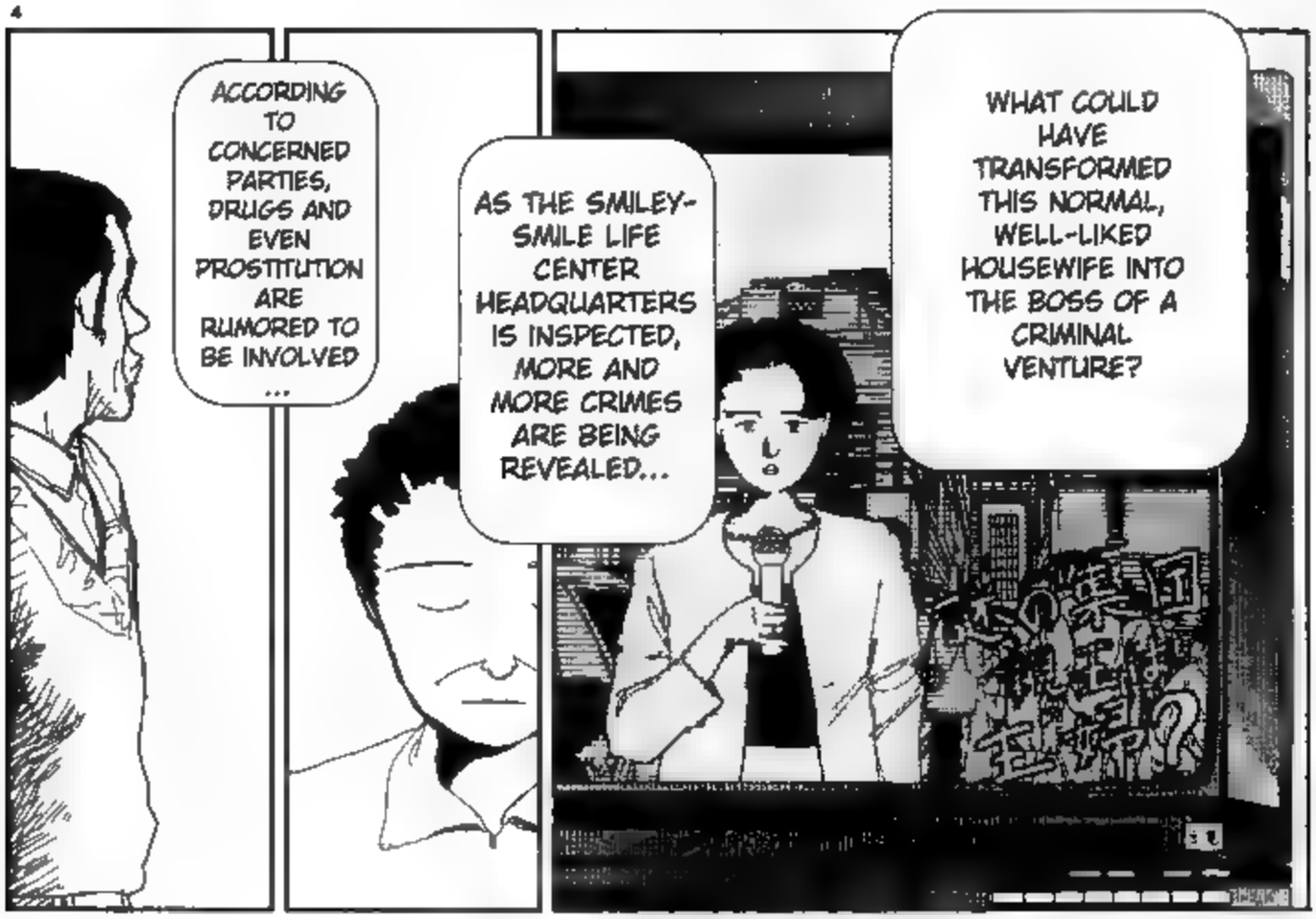


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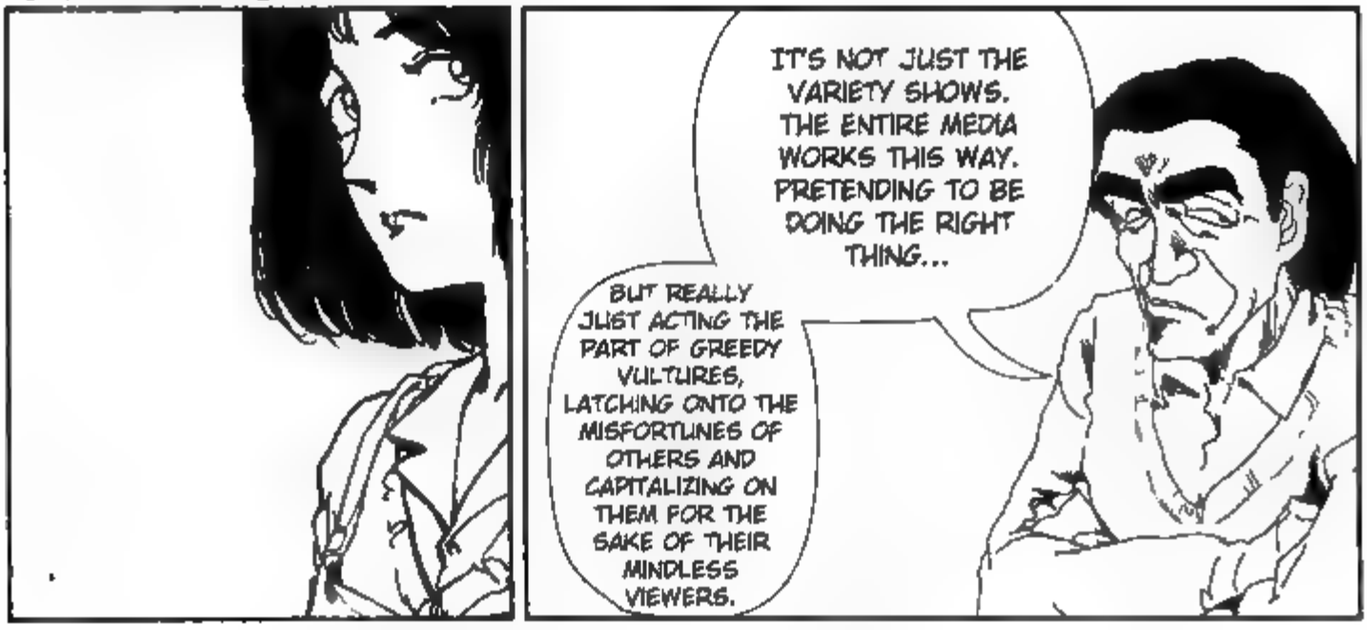

NOT FOR GOOD, I'M CERTAIN.
DID THEY LEAVE ?


THIS IS OHTAWAKE, COMING AT YOU LIVE FROM THE RESIDENCE OF "SMILEY-SMILE LIFE CENTER" CHAIRPERSON SUZUKI SAKURA'S (45) HOME.
THE SCENE IS CROWDED WITH MEDIA PERSONNEL AND LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE HEARD THE RUMORS, AND THE FRONT DOOR REMAINS STAUNCHLY LOCKED.
謎の集団の親玉は主婦?

4


ACCORDING TO CONCERNED PARTIES, DRUGS AND EVEN PROSTITUTION ARE RUMORED TO BE INVOLVED ...
AS THE SMILEY-SMILE LIFE CENTER HEADQUARTERS IS INSPECTED, MORE AND MORE CRIMES ARE BEING REVEALED...
WHAT COULD HAVE TRANSFORMED THIS NORMAL, WELL-LIKED HOUSEWIFE INTO THE BOSS OF A CRIMINAL VENTURE?
謎の集団の親玉は主婦?

GRAPHIC: THE HEAD OF THE MYSTERY ORGANIZATION IS A HOUSEWIFE?!

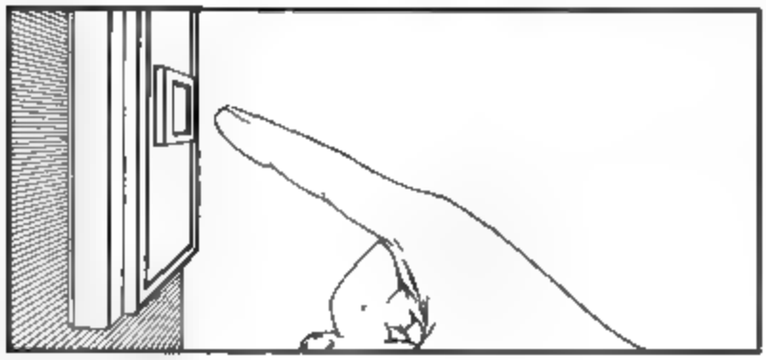

IT'S NOT JUST THE VARIETY SHOWS. THE ENTIRE MEDIA WORKS THIS WAY. PRETENDING TO BE DOING THE RIGHT THING...
BUT REALLY JUST ACTING THE PART OF GREEDY VULTURES, LATCHING ONTO THE MISFORTUNES OF OTHERS AND CAPITALIZING ON THEM FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR MINDLESS VIEWERS.


I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY LOCKED UP IN THE HOUSE FOR THE TIME BEING.
WHAT? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT DINNER, THEN? WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUT OF RICE.

5


WHAT ELSE ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE POLICE ARE AFTER YOUR MOTHER, AND WITHOUT ME, WHO WILL PROTECT THE FAMILY?


HEY! STOP RIGHT THERE, TAKAKO!! I JUST TOLD YOU NO ONE CAN GO OUTSIDE!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME. PLUS, IT WOULD BE SO STUPID TO HAVE TO MISS SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THIS.




ピンポーン


YOU FOOL! IF YOU WALK OUTSIDE NOW, THOSE JACKALS ARE GOING TO RIP YOU LIMB FROM LIMB!!
SO WHAT, WE HAVE TO BUCKLE DOWN FOR A SIEGE AGAIN, LIKE BEFORE? NOT FOR ME, NO THANKS!

6


IS SAKURA-SAN PRESENT AT THE MOMENT?
VERY SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. I'M FROM MEME TV, AND I'D LIKE TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS.

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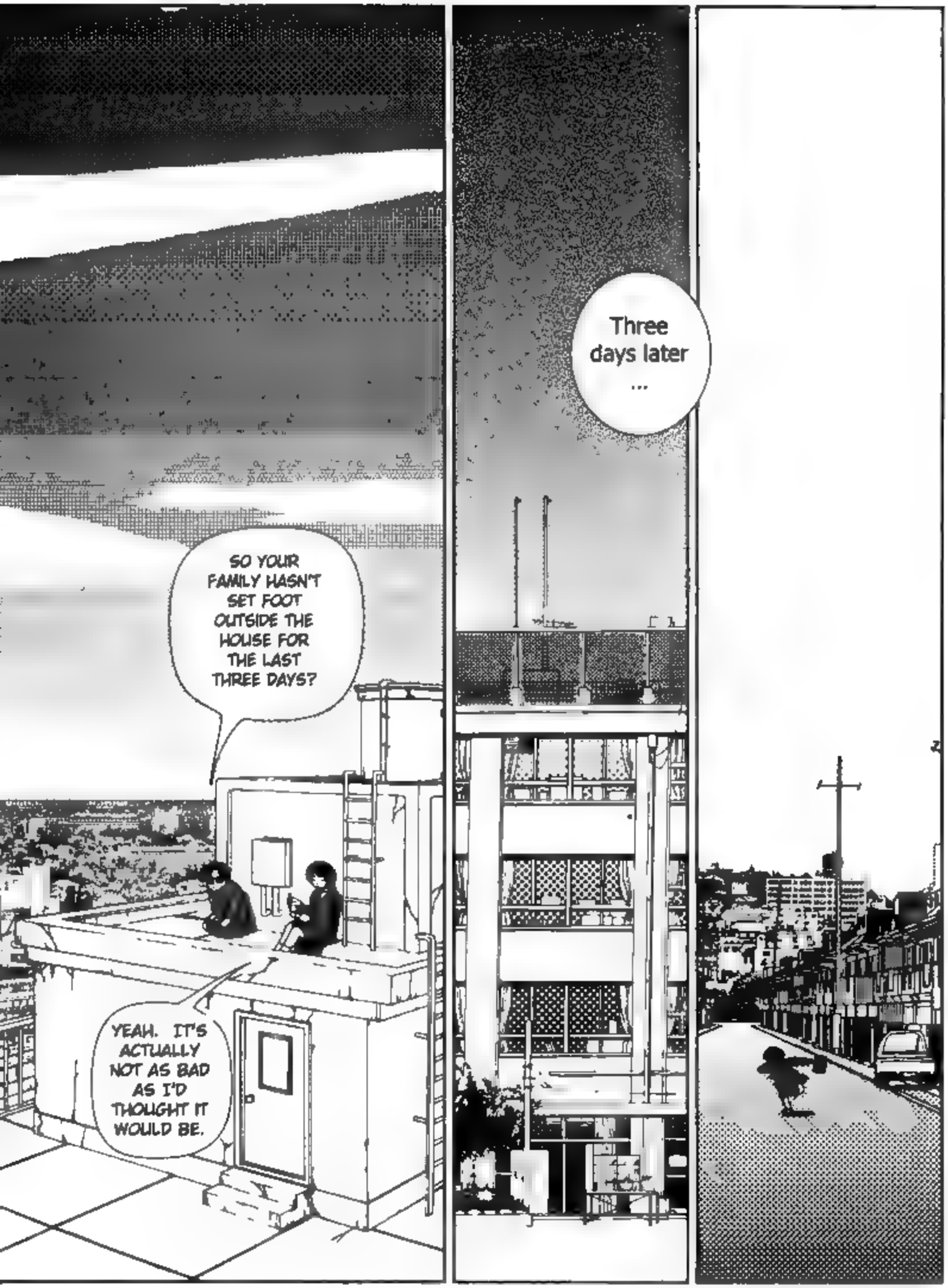

YOU'RE JUST A CRETINOUS VARIETY SHOW REPORTER, NOT A DELEGATE FOR SOCIETY AS A WHOLE! SCREW OFF!!
BUT SIR, GIVEN ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRICKED INTO GIVING THEIR MONEY AND LOSING THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, SOCIETY HAS A RIGHT TO...
CLICK
OH, IS THIS THE MAN OF THE HOUSE? WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US HOW YOU FEEL?
WHAT DO ANY OF YOU CREEPS HAVE TO DO WITH MY FAMILY?! LEAVE US ALONE! VACATE THE PREMISES!
YOU ALWAYS BLOW THINGS OUT OF PROPORTION. LIKE I CAN'T HANDLE A BUNCH OF PIMPLY THUGS ON MY OWN.
NOW YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO GO OUTSIDE. PLUS, I DON'T WANT YOU GOING BACK TO THAT PLACE AND GETTING HURT AGAIN ...
TAKE CARE, TAKA-CHAN.
...WELL, ALL RIGHT. IF ANY OF US CAN LEAVE THE HOUSE, IT'S TAKAKO.
HAVE A GOOD DAY
BUT IF YOU FEEL ANY SORT OF DANGER, JUST LEAVE AND RUN HOME.
IF YOU REALLY INSIST ON GOING, BUY SOME GROCERIES ON THE WAY HOME.


OUR BEST PLAN IS SIT STILL AND WATCH THE EVENTS UNFOLDING VERY CAREFULLY.
WE CAN'T JUST WALK AROUND FOR NOW. I'M SURE THERE ARE PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS AMONG THAT CROWD OF REPORTERS.
YOU KNOW, WE REALLY CAN'T JUST HIDE OUT IN THE HOUSE FOREVER.


HOW DO YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW?! DON'T GET DOWN! DON'T LET THIS GET YOU DOWN!
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER WAS SHE TO YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS?!
YOU ARE SUZUKI-SAN'S DAUGHTER, AREN'T YOU! CAN WE TALK?!

8

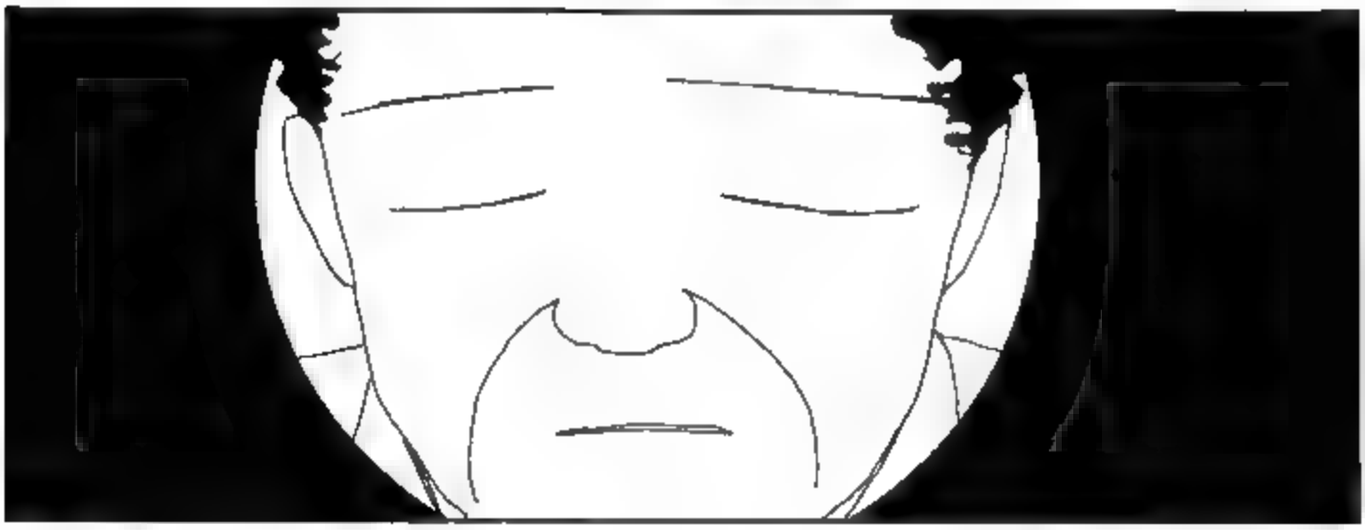


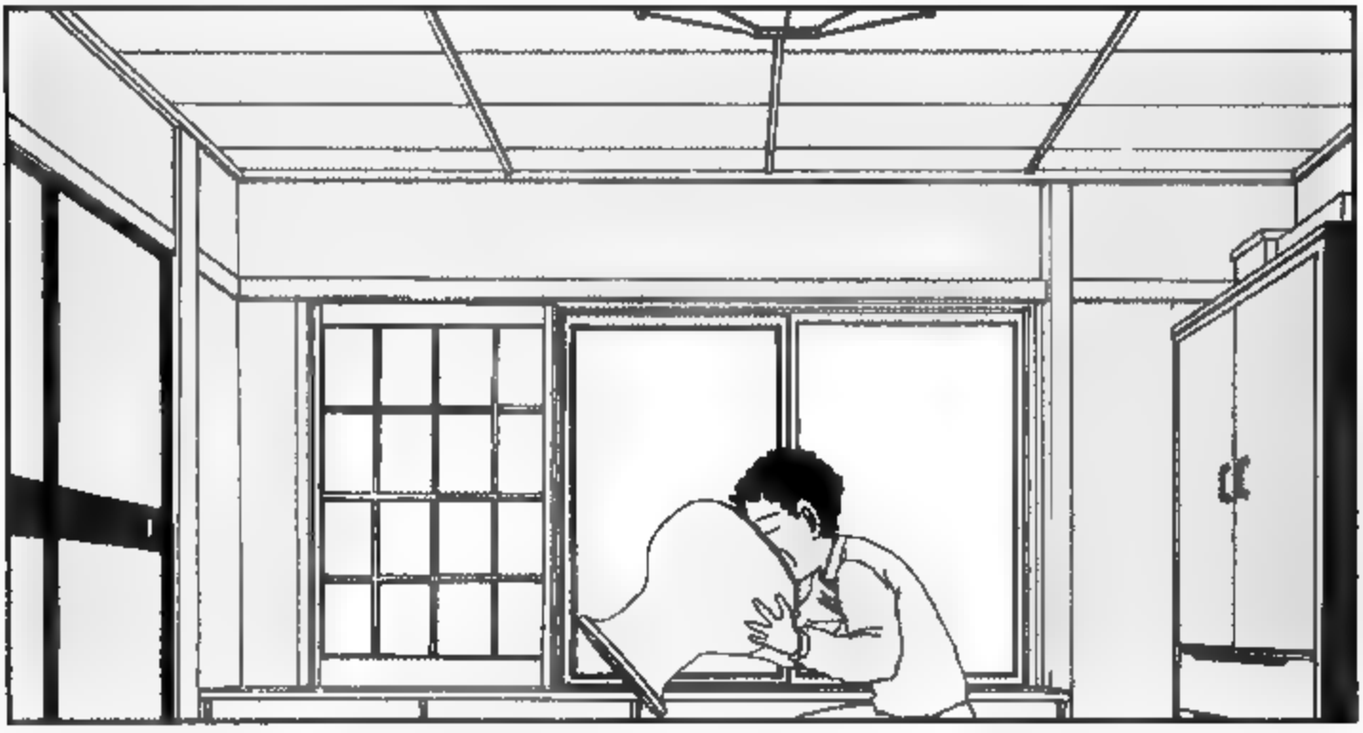

SO YOUR FAMILY HASN'T SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS?
YEAH. IT'S ACTUALLY NOT AS BAD AS I'D THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
Three days later ...


IN FACT, IT'S BETTER BECAUSE DAD'S NOT COMING TO SCHOOL.


THE WORST THING I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IS THE OBNOXIOUS TV CREWS AND COPS LOITERING AROUND OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

10






WELL, WE KNOW THEY'RE IN THERE. AND WE CAN'T PLAY "GOOD COP" FOREVER.
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO BUST THE PLACE?

11


MOM.

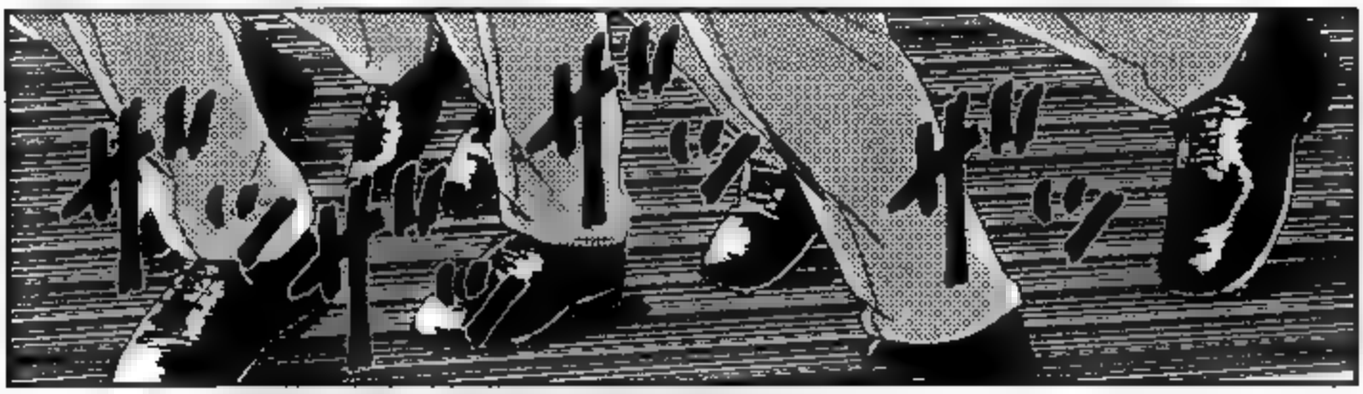


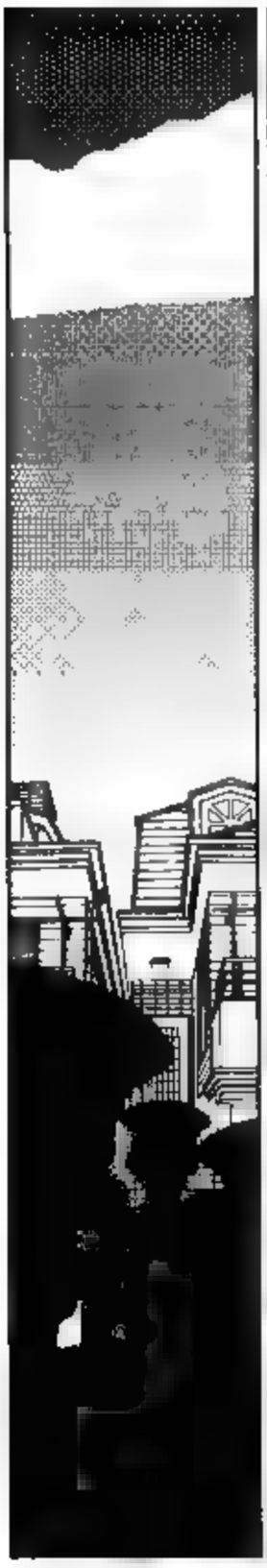

I WILL GO OUTSIDE. I BELIEVE THAT IF I TRUTHFULLY AND COMPASSIONATELY TELL MY STORY, THE POLICE WILL RECOGNIZE THE MISUNDERSTANDING.
I'M CHECKING THE VASE'S ORACLE. WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE, I CAN SEE THE ANSWERS IN THE BOTTOM.


CONNING ME?
SERIOUSLY, MOM, YOU NEED TO SNAP OUT OF IT. THEY WERE CONNING YOU.

12


THEY USED YOUR NAME TO GET AWAY, AND NOW THE POLICE ARE AFTER US. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE?
OF COURSE THEY WERE! SELLING YOU A CHEAP PLASTIC VASE FOR A RIDICULOUS PRICE, JUST TO MAKE AN EASY BUCK!


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IT WAS SO EXCITING WHEN WE WERE FACING OFF AGAINST THE POLICE. IT WAS VERY FRIGHTENING, OF COURSE...
BUT YOU KNOW ...


I'D NEVER BEEN SO BREATHLESS IN MY LIFE. IT WAS LIKE I WAS AT A FESTIVAL.
BUT I WAS BESIDE MYSELF.


BUT I UNDERSTAND. IT'S ALWAYS YOU AND FATHER WHO ARE RIGHT...



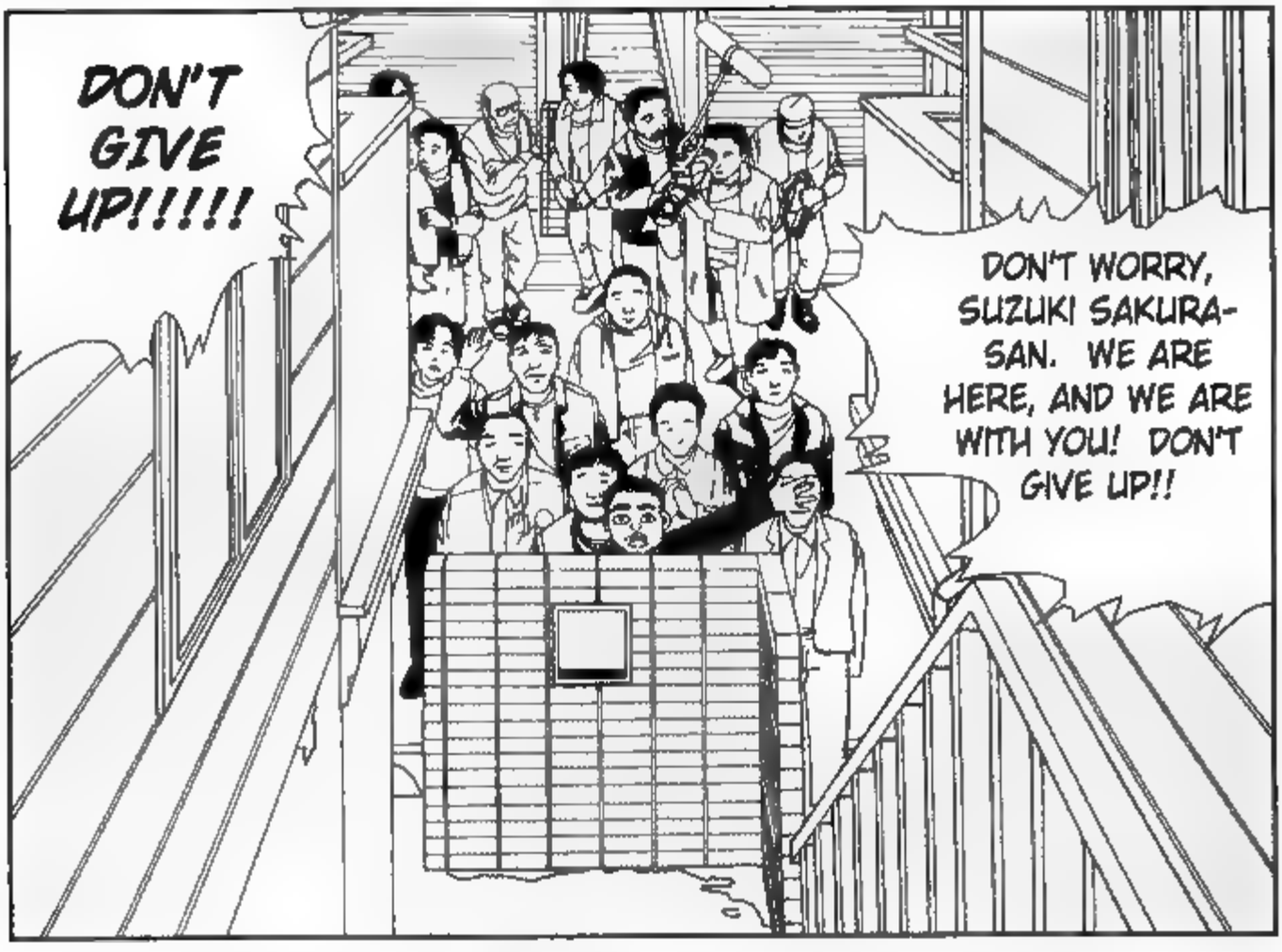

HELL NO!!
ARE WE GOING TO SIT BACK AND ALLOW FOR THE UNJUST ARREST OF OUR HERO SUZUKI SAKURA-SAN?!
LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!!
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME. YOU UNCONSTITUTIONAL, FREEDOM-OF-THOUGHT-VIOLATING PIG COPS!!

14

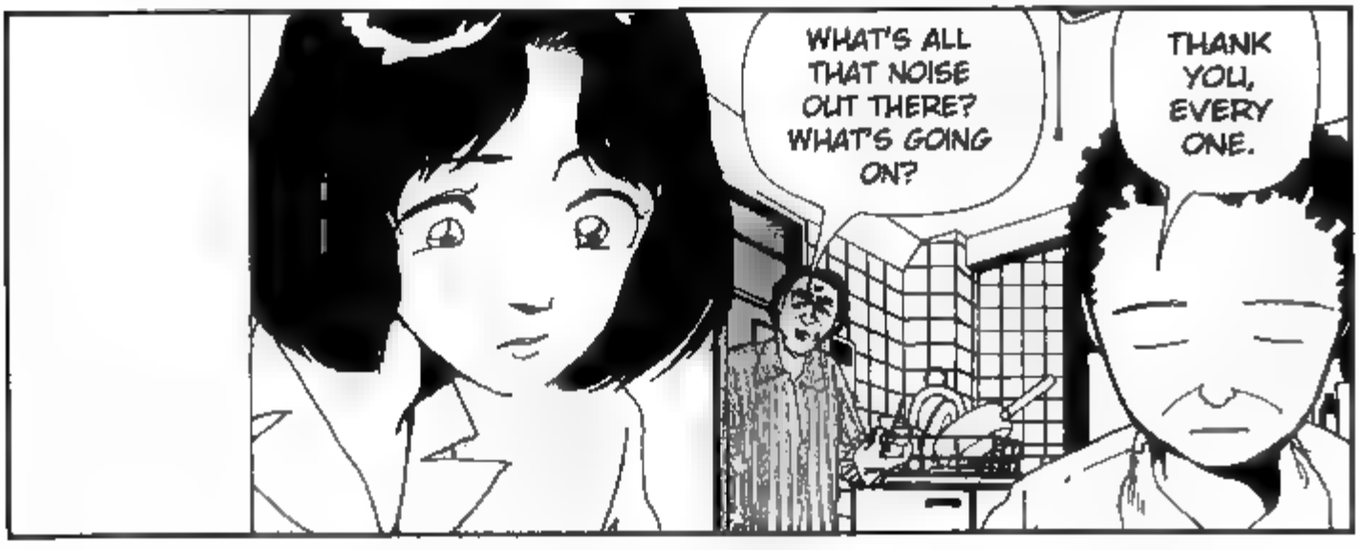

WE THE UNDERSIGNED FIND THE POLICE ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF XXXX LAW SECTION XXXX, XXXX LAW SECTION XXXX, XXXX LAW SECTION XXXX
WE ARE APPLYING FOR XXXX IN FEDERAL COURT, WHICH MAKES HER ARREST ILLEGAL BY XXXX LAW, AS WELL AS

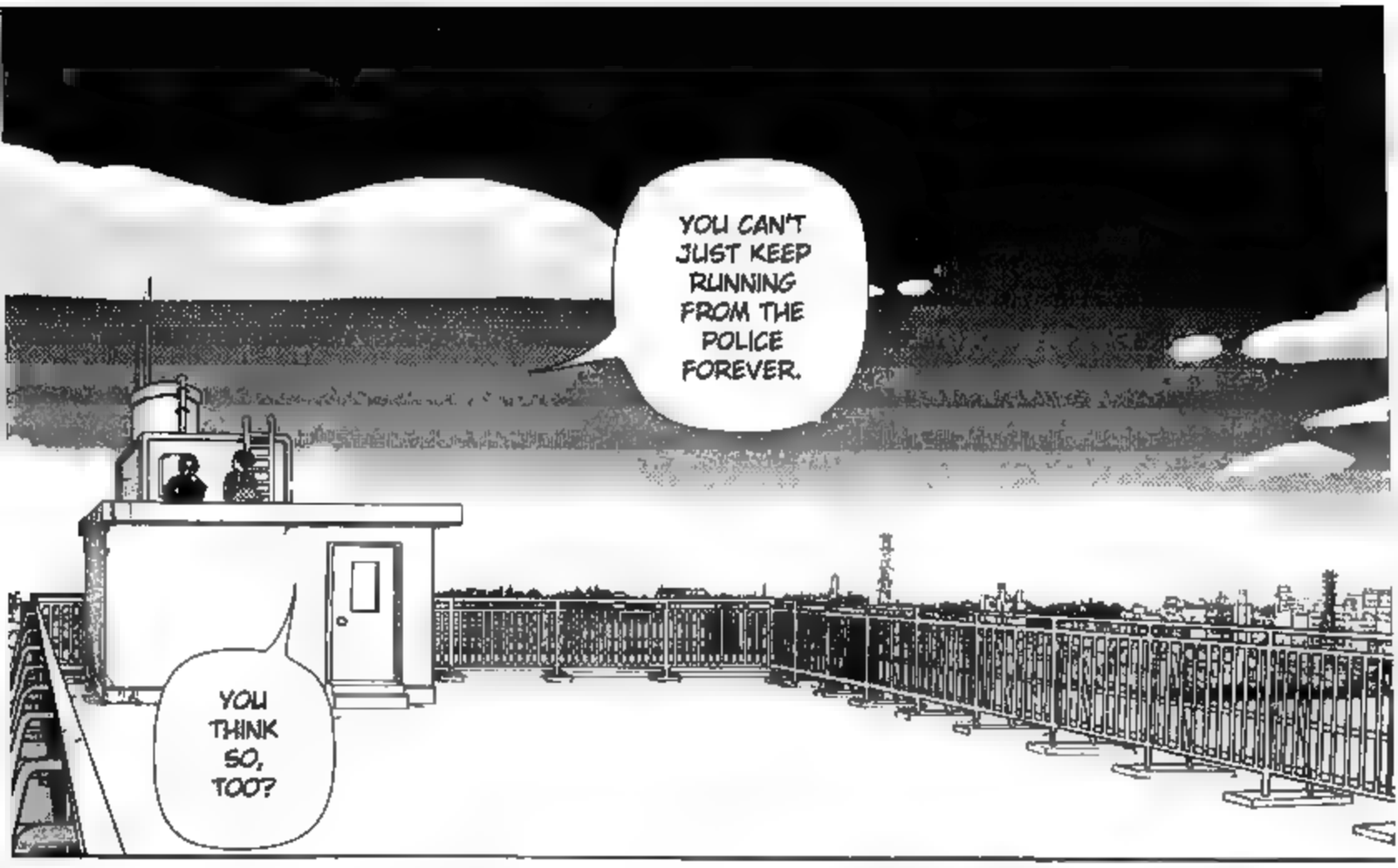
* BAR EXAM STUDENTS: SEE IF YOU CAN FILL IN THE X'S WITH THE APPROPRIATE PROPER NOUNS.

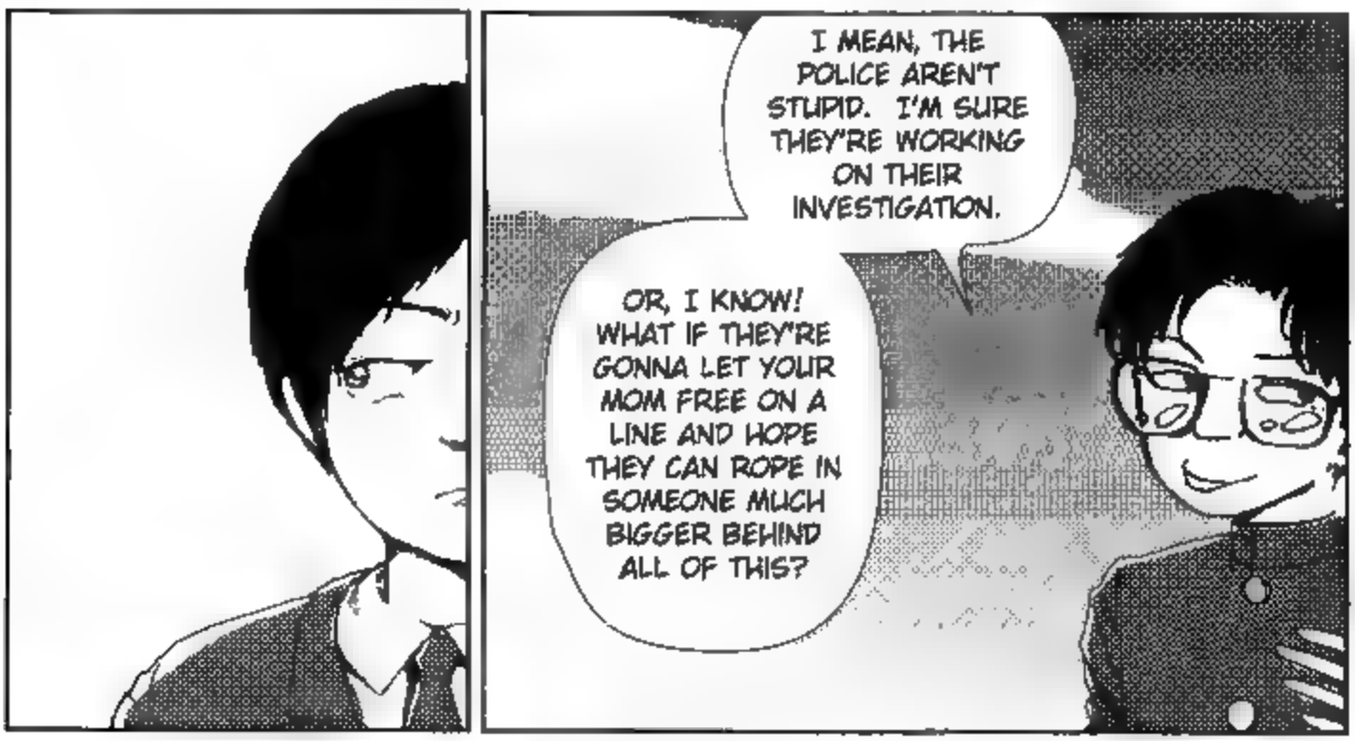

THAT'S OUR LEGAL ADVISOR, NIKUJIMA-SAN.


DON'T GIVE UP!!!!!
DON'T WORRY, SUZUKI SAKURA-SAN. WE ARE HERE, AND WE ARE WITH YOU! DON'T GIVE UP!!

15


WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE OUT THERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THANK YOU, EVERY ONE.

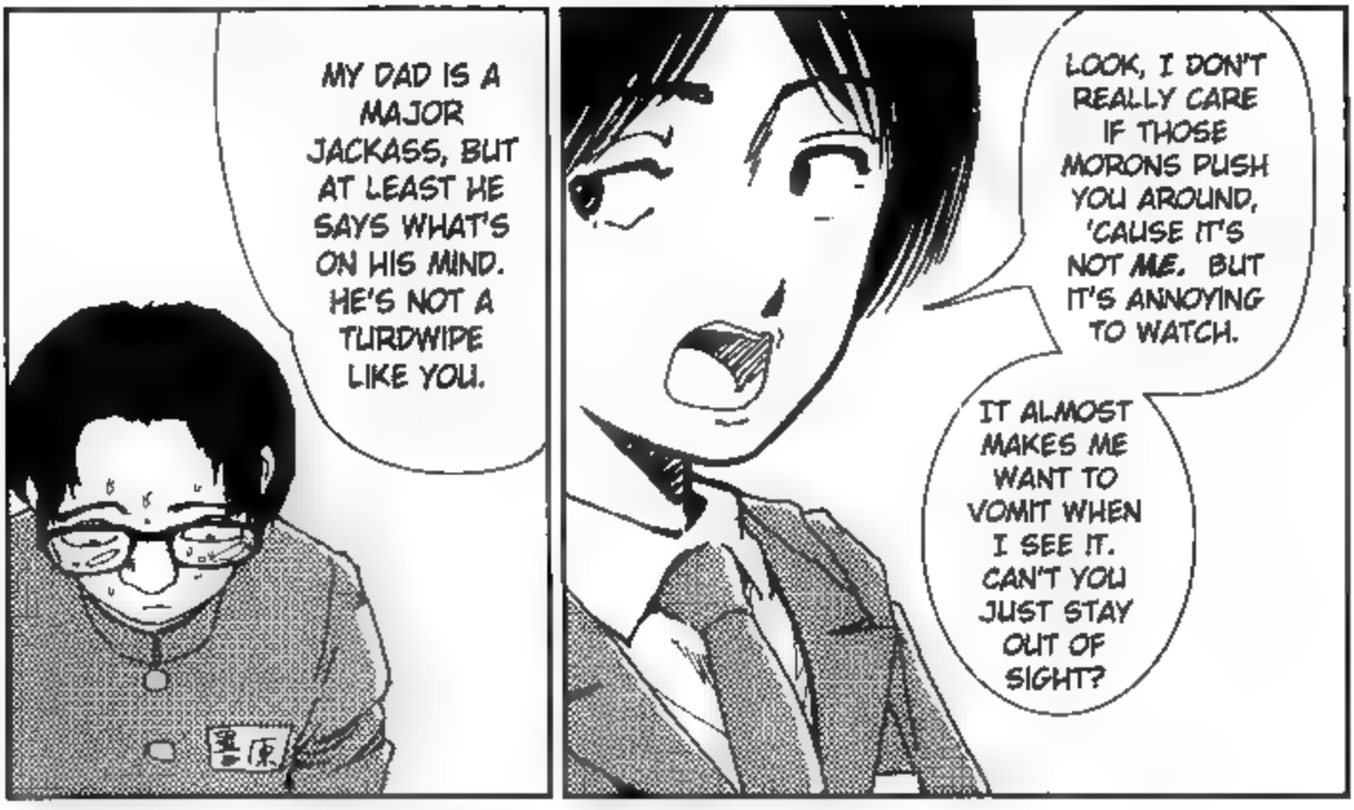

YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP RUNNING FROM THE POLICE FOREVER.
YOU THINK SO, TOO?


I MEAN, THE POLICE AREN'T STUPID. I'M SURE THEY'RE WORKING ON THEIR INVESTIGATION.
OR, I KNOW! WHAT IF THEY'RE GONNA LET YOUR MOM FREE ON A LINE AND HOPE THEY CAN ROPE IN SOMEONE MUCH BIGGER BEHIND ALL OF THIS?

16

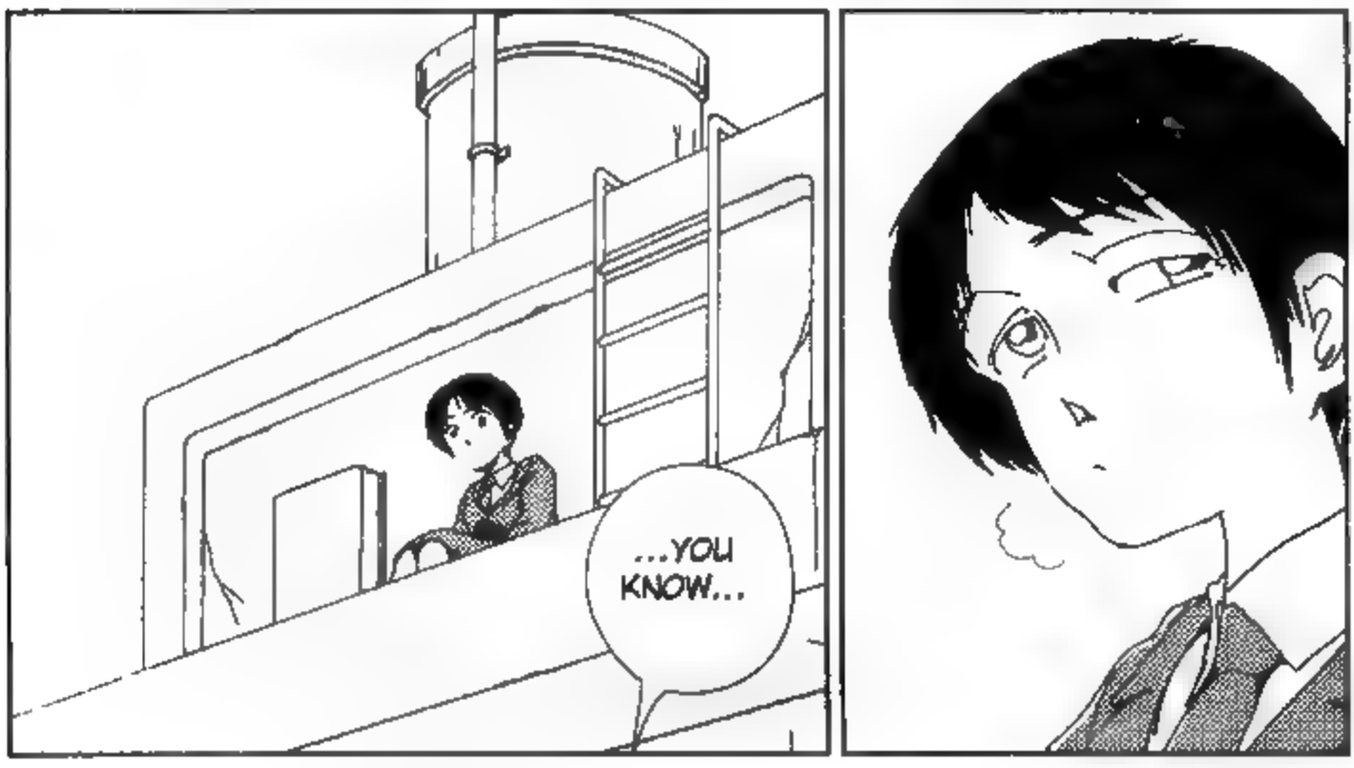

I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH YOUR OWN PROBLEMS THAN MY FAMILY'S.
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MY DAD IS A MAJOR JACKASS, BUT AT LEAST HE SAYS WHAT'S ON HIS MIND. HE'S NOT A TURDWIPE LIKE YOU.
LOOK, I DON'T REALLY CARE IF THOSE MORONS PUSH YOU AROUND, 'CAUSE IT'S NOT ME. BUT IT'S ANNOYING TO WATCH.
IT ALMOST MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT WHEN I SEE IT. CAN'T YOU JUST STAY OUT OF SIGHT?


LUNCHTIME'S ALMOST OVER. I'D BETTER GET GOING...

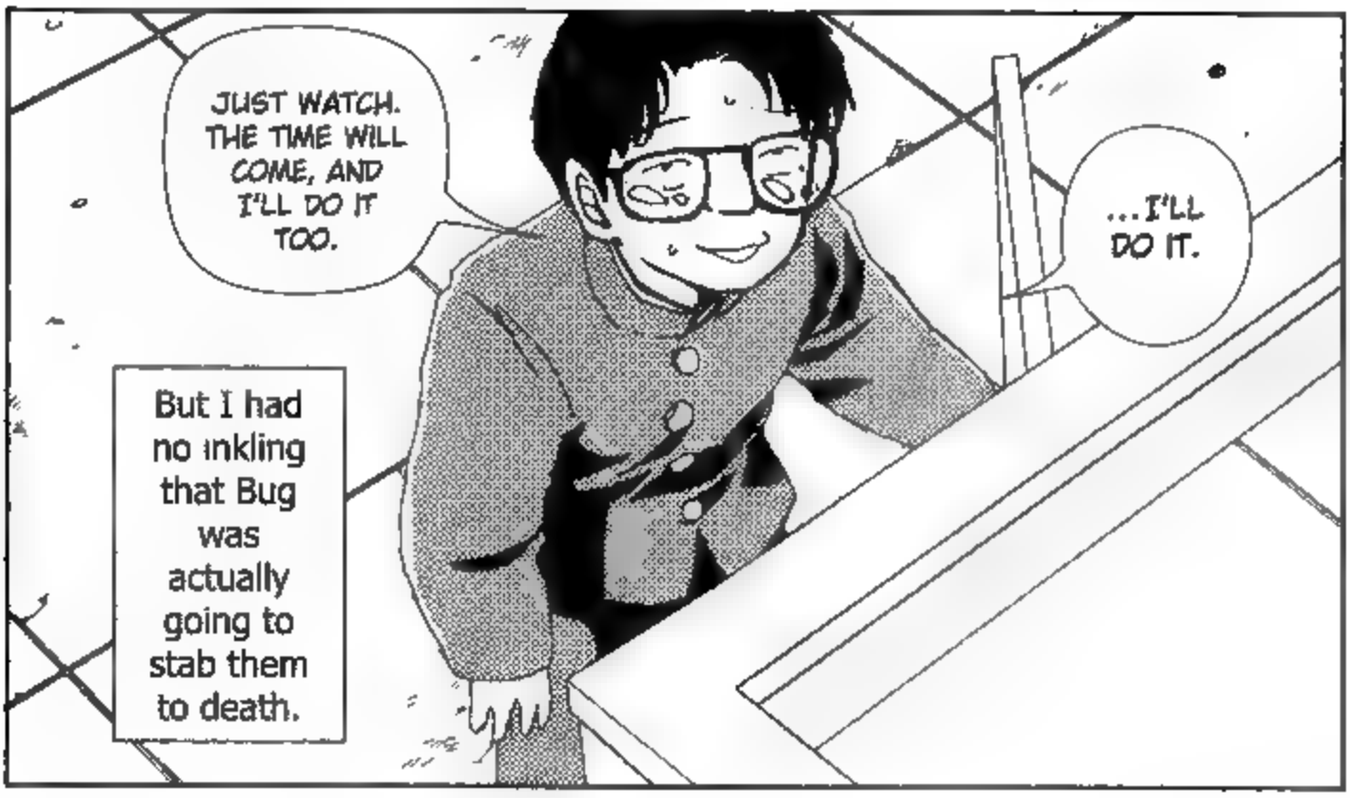
17


...YOU KNOW...


I...
IF YOU KNOW THE DRILL, YOU SHOULD JUST FOLLOW SUIT ...
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY AWESOME, WHAT YOU DID. WHEN YOU SHOVED YOUR CHOPSTICKS IN ROKU'S NOSE. IT WAS REALLY AMAZING.
I MEAN, I KNOW YOU'RE A LOT DIFFERENT FROM ME. THE REASON I GET BULLIED IS BECAUSE I CAN'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT.


GOOD LUCK.
WELL ...

18


JUST WATCH. THE TIME WILL COME, AND I'LL DO IT TOO.
...I'LL DO IT.
But I had no inkling that Bug was actually going to stab them to death.



TRANSLATED BY
STEPHEN PAUL

SCANNED AND EDITED BY
GATSU

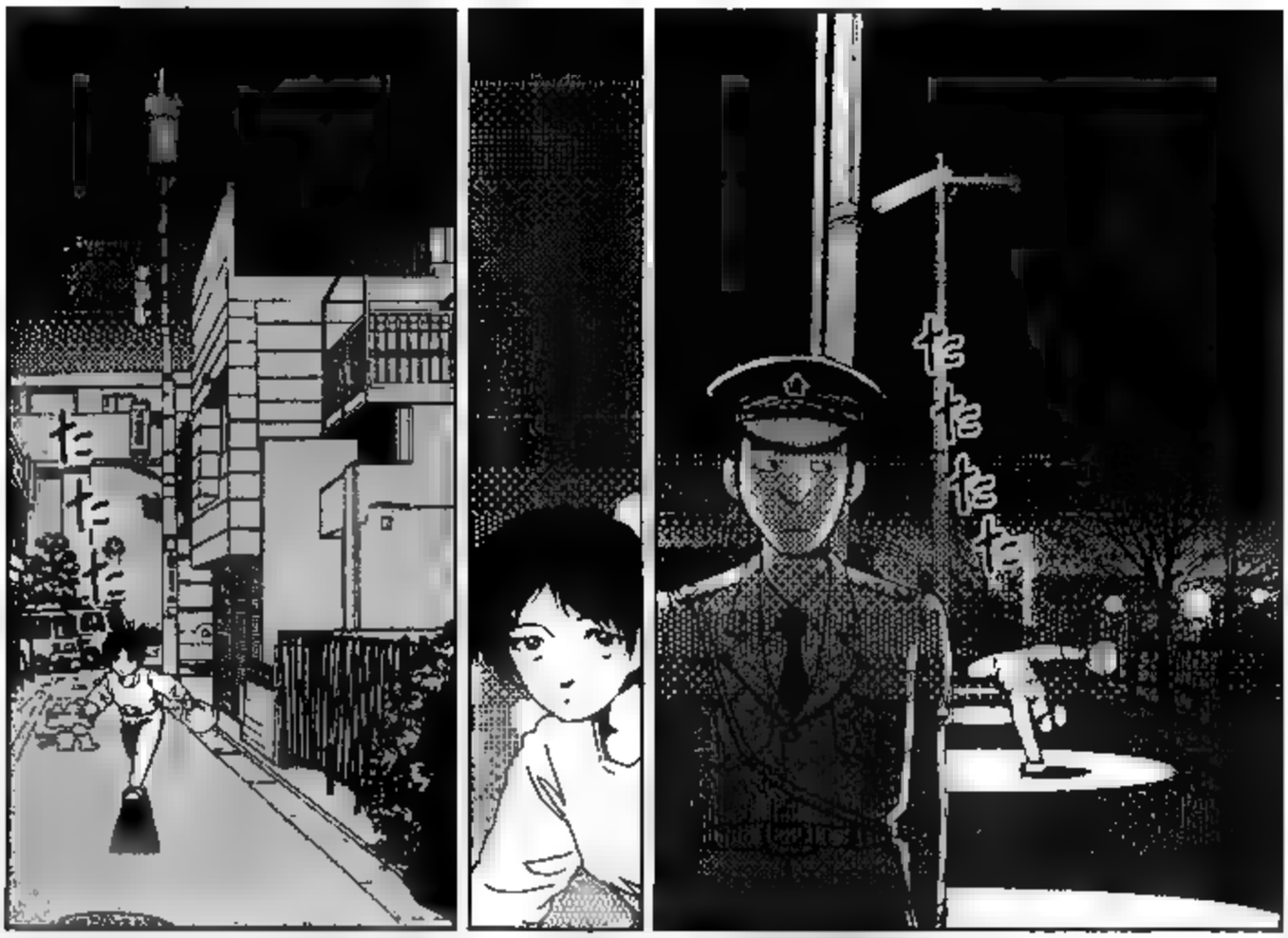
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42

THE BUG TAKES REFUGE

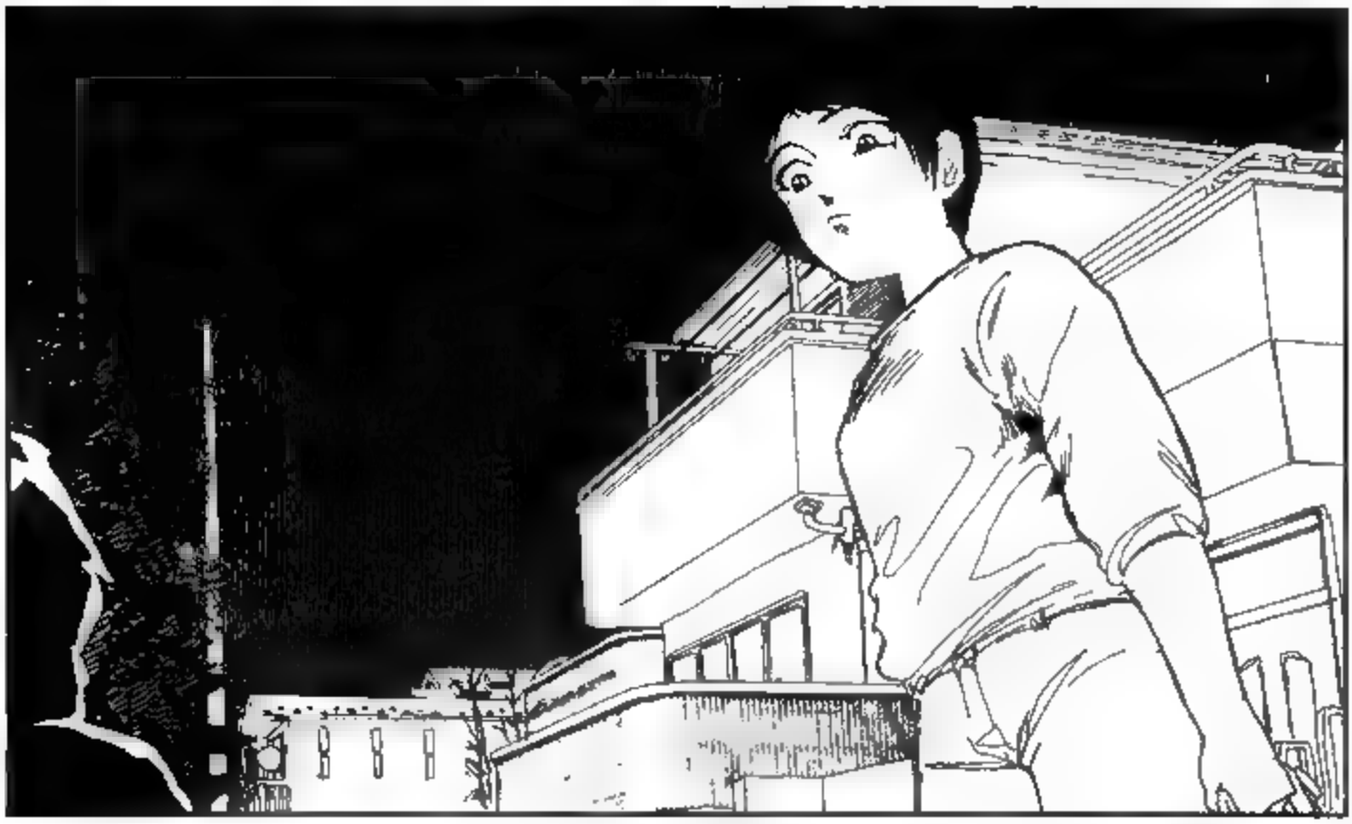


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SUZUKI-SAN.

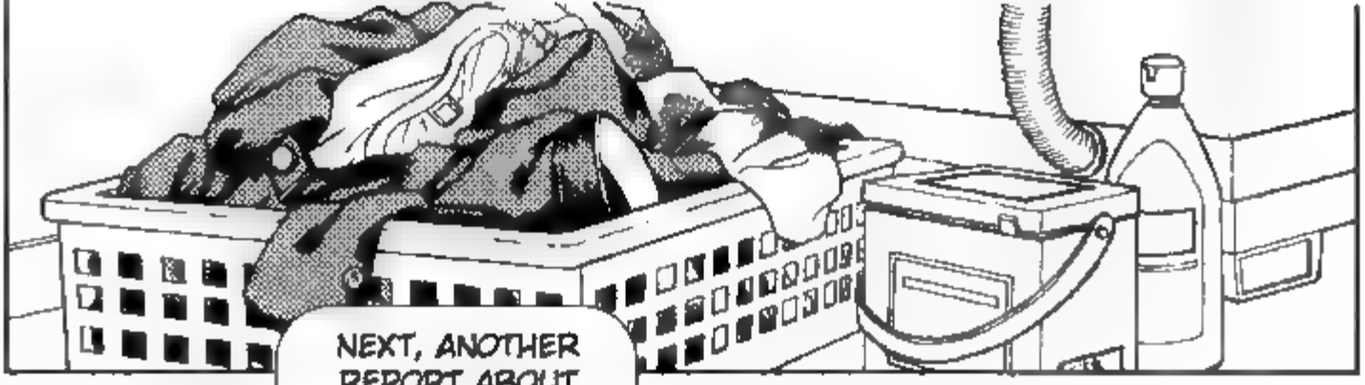


3


HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ENJOY FRIED OYSTERS WITHOUT TARTAR SAUCE TO GO WITH THEM..?
SHE ONLY JUST LEFT. IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HER, DON'T MAKE HER GO.


HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TAKAKO TO BUY A SIMPLE JAR OF MAYONNAISE?


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SORRY FOR THE BOTHER.
I'M HOME.

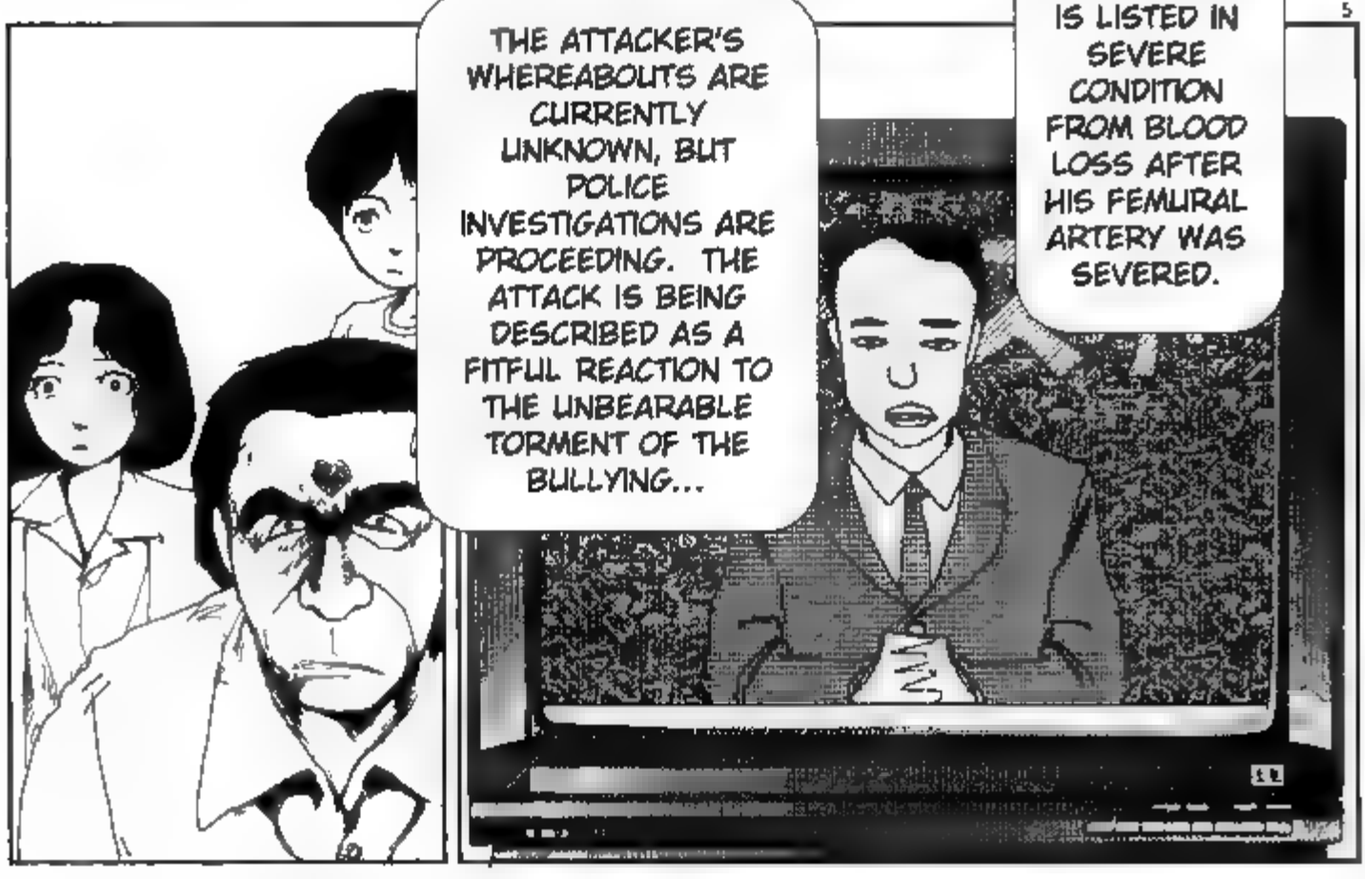


NEXT, ANOTHER REPORT ABOUT "BULLYING." AN INCIDENT HAS ARISEN AT XXX MIDDLE SCHOOL IN XXX CITY, OF A STUDENT ACCOSTING HIS TORMENTERS WITH A RAZOR.



VICTIM A-KUN (ALIAS GIVEN) IS LISTED IN SEVERE CONDITION FROM BLOOD LOSS AFTER HIS FEMURAL ARTERY WAS SEVERED.

THE ATTACKER'S WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN, BUT POLICE INVESTIGATIONS ARE PROCEEDING. THE ATTACK IS BEING DESCRIBED AS A FITFUL REACTION TO THE UNBEARABLE TORMENT OF THE BULLYING...



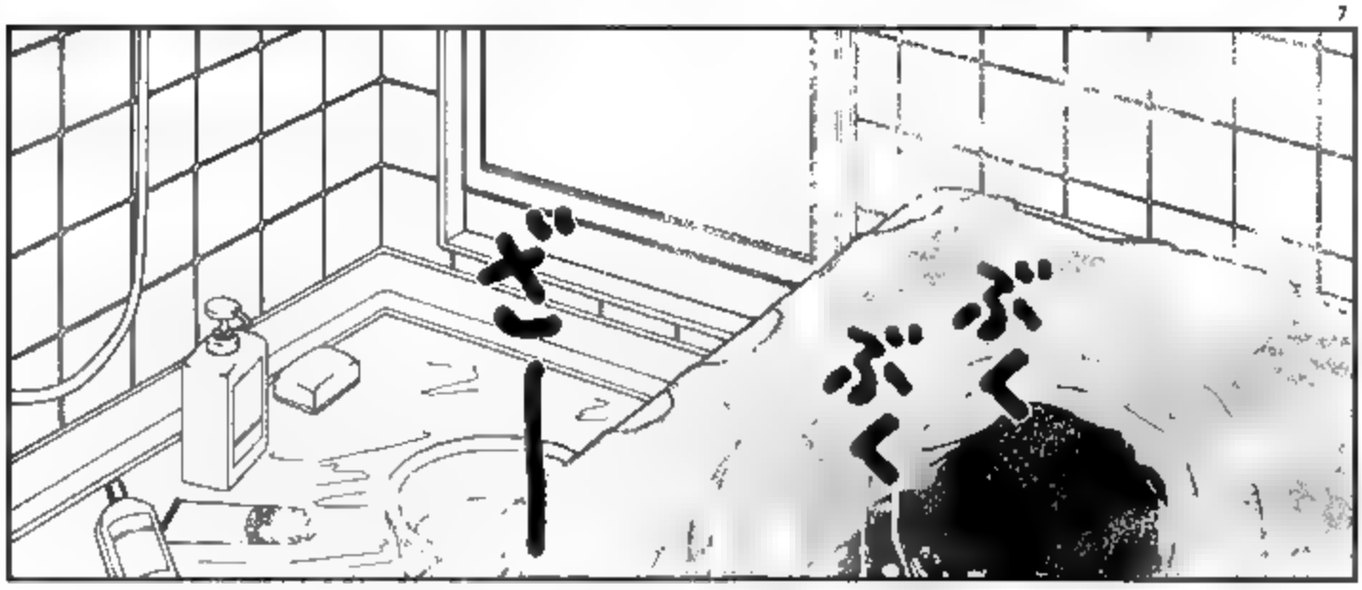



...BUT AN ACCURATE CAUSE OF THE ATTACK IS STILL UNKNOWN. THE PRINCIPAL OF XXX MIDDLE SCHOOL ISSUED A STATEMENT,
SAYING, "WE MUST NEVER ALLOW SUCH A TRAGEDY TO OCCUR AGAIN... RIGHT?"
OH, I CAN TELL. IT'S ALL PLAIN AS DAY, IN MY EYES.
KEEP YOUR DUMB ASS OUT OF THIS, OLD MAN.
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE TYPE OF BOY WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO CRAZY.
HE WON'T SAY ANYTHING. HE JUST KEEPS REPEATING, "I DID IT," OVER AND OVER.

6

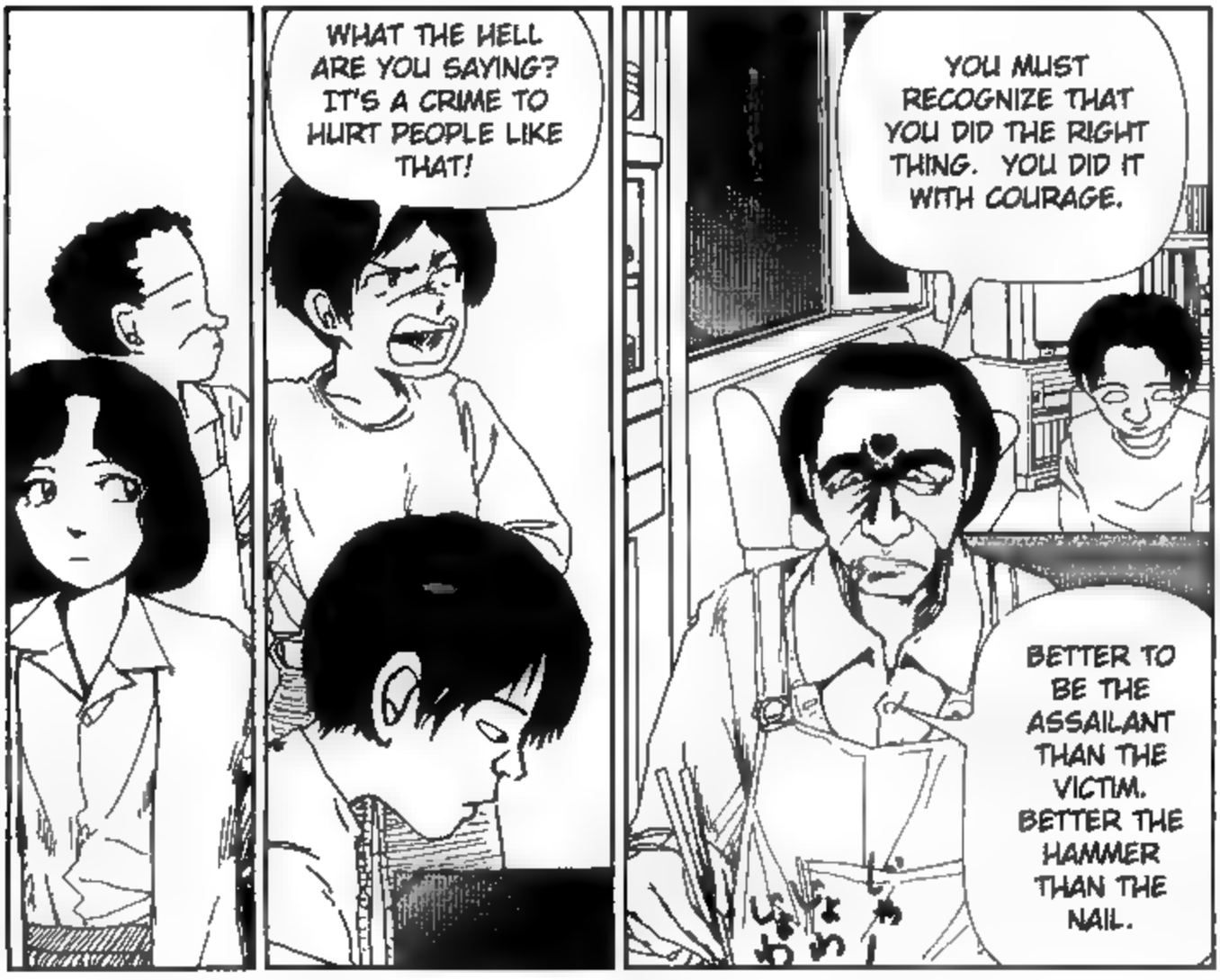



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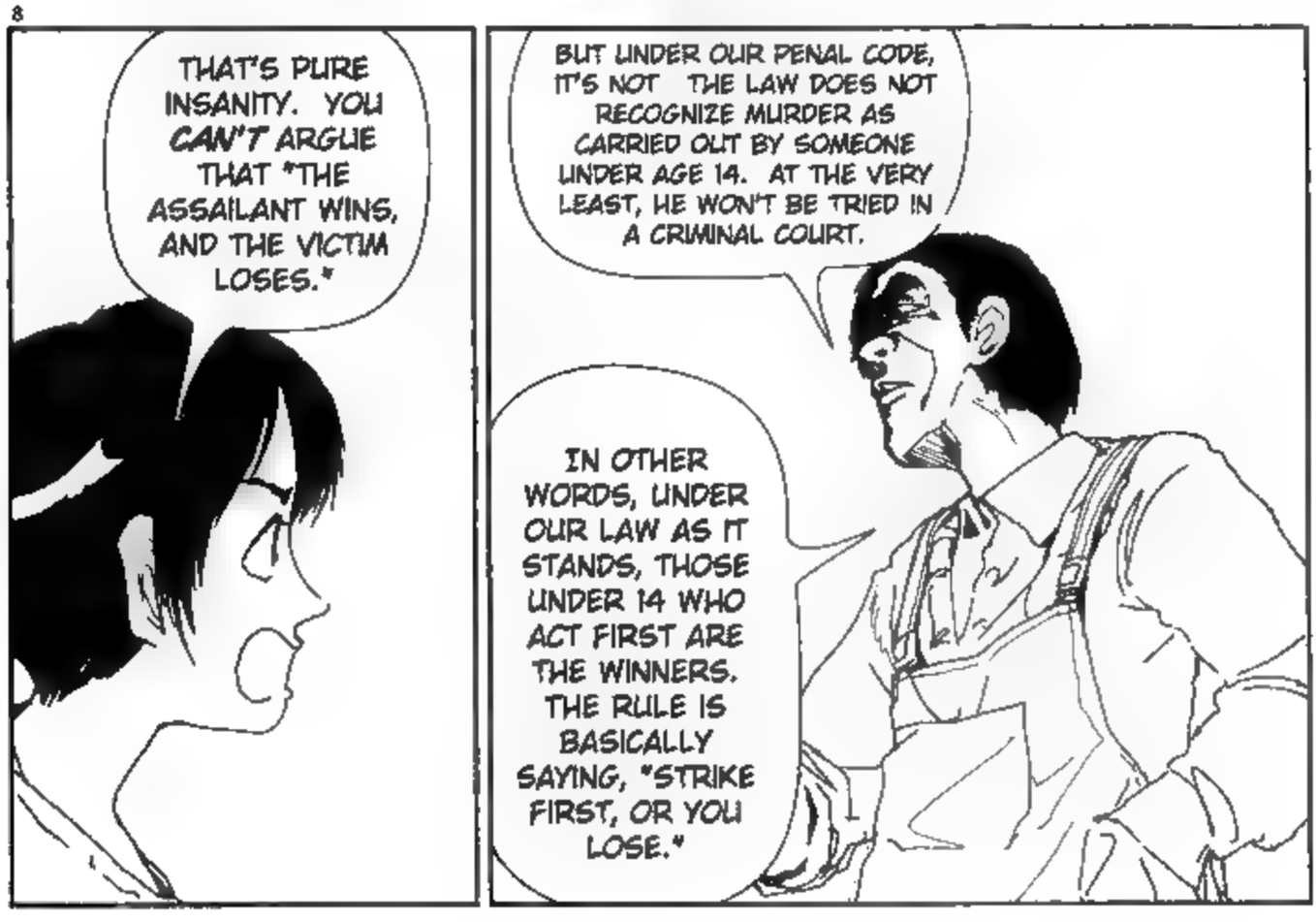

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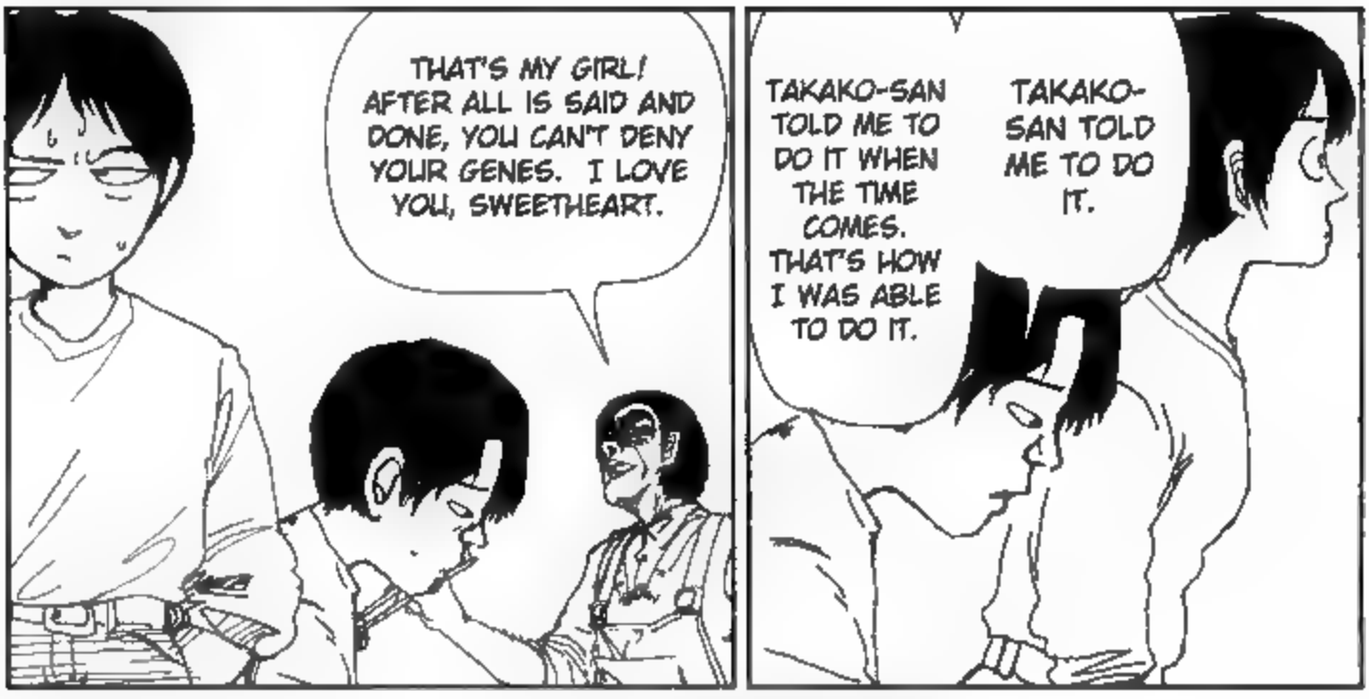

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ANYONE WHO WOULD STOOP SO LOW AS TO GANG TOGETHER TO BULLY THE WEAK IS FORFEITING THEIR OWN WORTH AS A HUMAN BEING.
YOU WERE CORRECT. YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. YOU SHOULD NOT FEEL ANY SORT OF GUILT.


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S A CRIME TO HURT PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT YOU DID THE RIGHT THING. YOU DID IT WITH COURAGE.
BETTER TO BE THE ASSAILANT THAN THE VICTIM. BETTER THE HAMMER THAN THE NAIL.

8

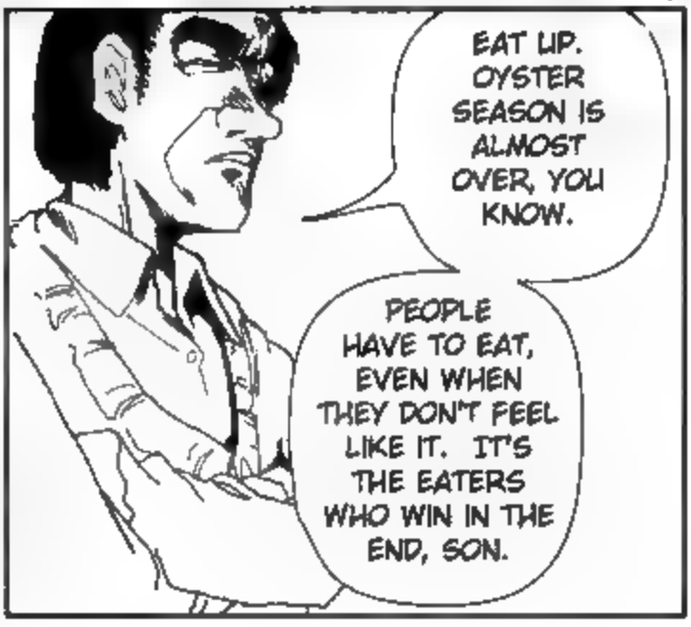

THAT'S PURE INSANITY. YOU *CAN'T* ARGUE THAT "THE ASSAILANT WINS, AND THE VICTIM LOSES."
BUT UNDER OUR PENAL CODE, IT'S NOT THE LAW DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MURDER AS CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE UNDER AGE 14. AT THE VERY LEAST, HE WON'T BE TRIED IN A CRIMINAL COURT.
IN OTHER WORDS, UNDER OUR LAW AS IT STANDS, THOSE UNDER 14 WHO ACT FIRST ARE THE WINNERS. THE RULE IS BASICALLY SAYING, "STRIKE FIRST, OR YOU LOSE."

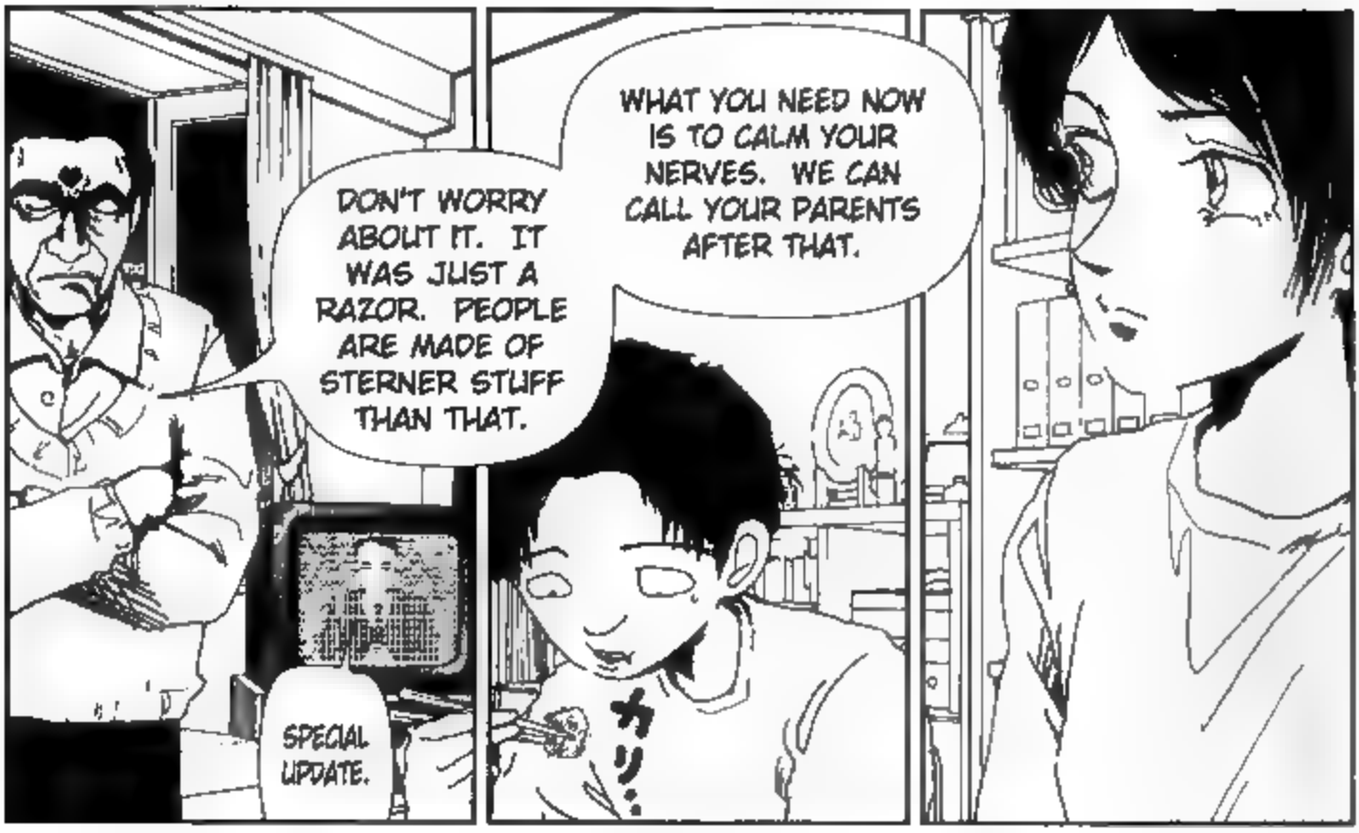

THAT'S MY GIRL! AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, YOU CAN'T DENY YOUR GENES. I LOVE YOU, SWEETHEART.
TAKAKO-SAN TOLD ME TO DO IT WHEN THE TIME COMES. THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO DO IT.
TAKAKO-SAN TOLD ME TO DO IT.

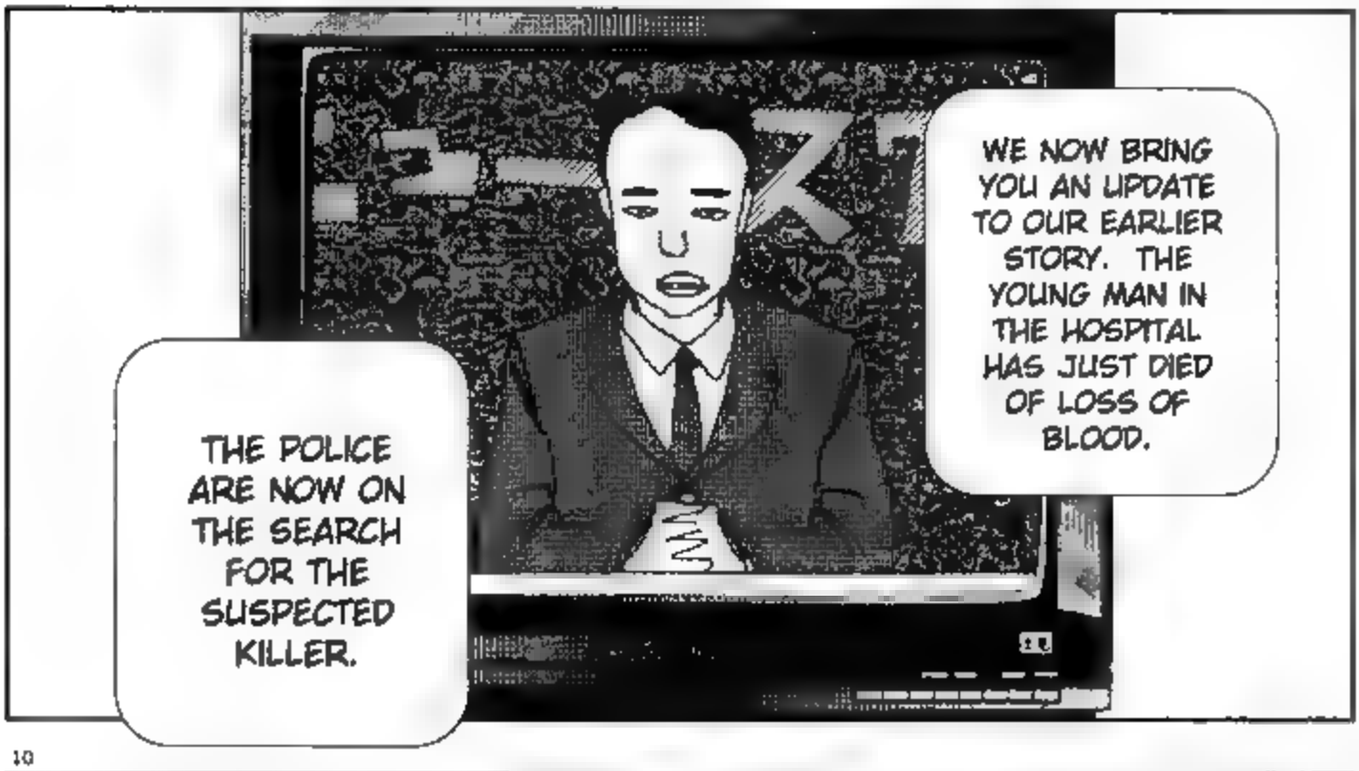

NOW HAVE SOME FRIED OYSTERS.
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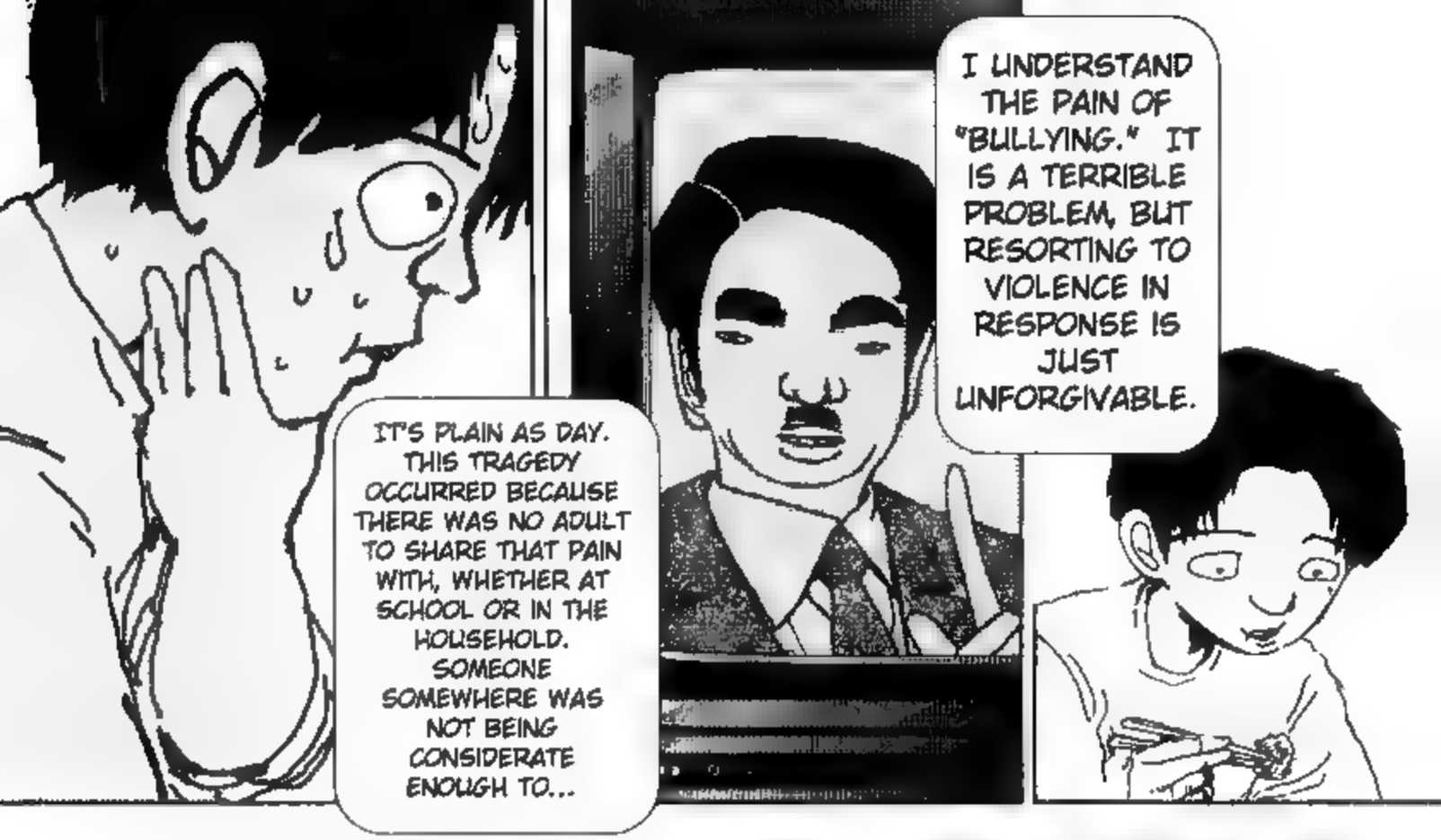

EAT UP. OYSTER SEASON IS ALMOST OVER, YOU KNOW.
PEOPLE HAVE TO EAT, EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE IT. IT'S THE EATERS WHO WIN IN THE END, SON.


WHAT YOU NEED NOW IS TO CALM YOUR NERVES. WE CAN CALL YOUR PARENTS AFTER THAT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS JUST A RAZOR. PEOPLE ARE MADE OF STERNER STUFF THAN THAT.
SPECIAL UPDATE.
カリ・


WE NOW BRING YOU AN UPDATE TO OUR EARLIER STORY. THE YOUNG MAN IN THE HOSPITAL HAS JUST DIED OF LOSS OF BLOOD.
THE POLICE ARE NOW ON THE SEARCH FOR THE SUSPECTED KILLER.

10

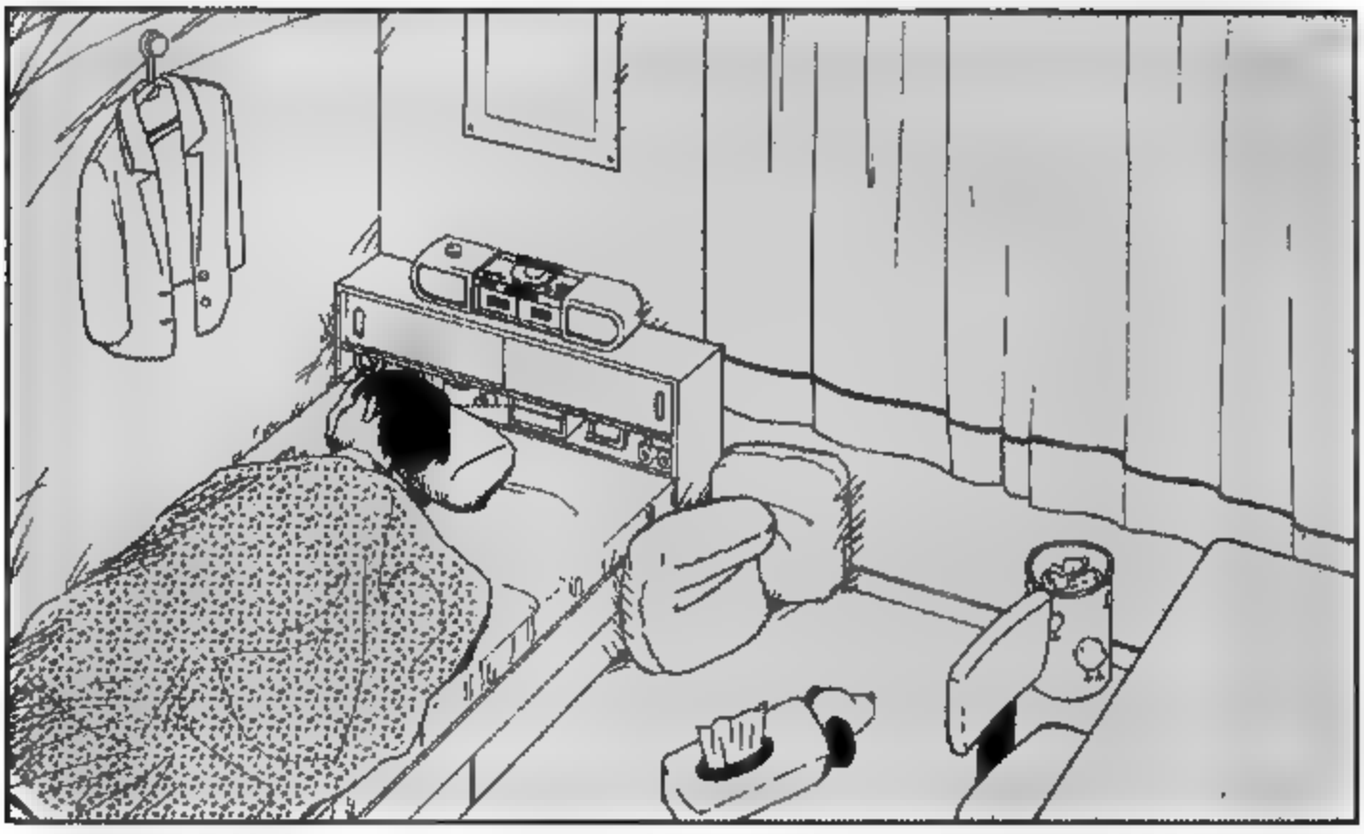



I UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF "BULLYING." IT IS A TERRIBLE PROBLEM, BUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE IN RESPONSE IS JUST UNFORGIVABLE.
IT'S PLAIN AS DAY. THIS TRAGEDY OCCURRED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ADULT TO SHARE THAT PAIN WITH, WHETHER AT SCHOOL OR IN THE HOUSEHOLD. SOMEONE SOMEWHERE WAS NOT BEING CONSIDERATE ENOUGH TO...



11


BLEERRRRRGGGHHH
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EEEGH HHHH!!




WELL, THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION THEN.
NO, THAT'S THE LAST THING HE WANTS. HE'LL DIE IF WE CALL THEM.


I THINK HE'S ASLEEP.
HAS HE SETTLED DOWN?
SHOULD WE CALL HIS HOUSE?

12

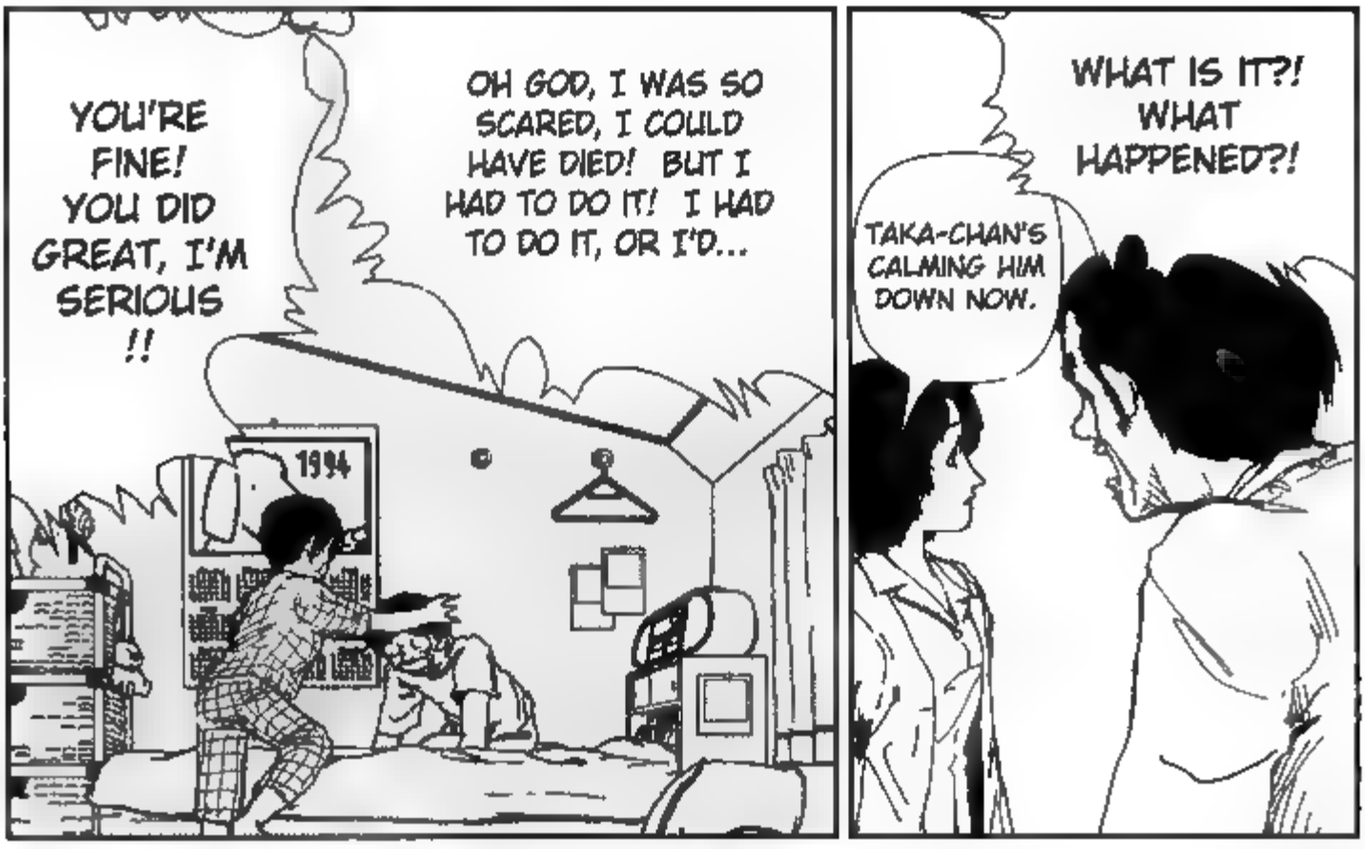



YUKI-CHAN'S SO HOT. GOD, SHE'S LIKE THE SUN OF MY LIFE. I COULD JACK OFF FIVE TIMES IN A ROW TO HER.
WHAT, IS SHE THAT HOT?
YOU BETTER NOT WHIP IT OUT LIKE YOU DID THAT OTHER TIME...
OH FUCK YEAH, DUDE. I GOT A HARD-ON RIGHT NOW.
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT, MAN? NOW I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE RUBBIN' ONE OUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, DUDE. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DO THIS STUFF
YUKI-CHAAAAN!
HEY, BUG!!
ぺくぺく
DON'T THINK YOU CAN REFUSE ME HERE, BUB. REMEMBER WHAT WE DID THE LAST TIME THAT HAPPENED?
C'MERE AND SLOB THE KNOB!!
HAHA HA, LOSER!
WHEN I JERK IT WITH MY HANDS, THE MAGAZINE SHAKES TOO MUCH FOR ME TO GET A GOOD PICTURE OF HER.
YOU DON'T GET TO SEE THE WANG FOR FREE. GET DOWN HERE AND SUCK ME OFF.
W-W-WHAAAAT?!


OOOH!
OH YUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO GOOD. KEEP GOING, DON'T STOP.
WHAT A RETARD, DUDE. WHAT A TOOL.
HAHAHA, HE'S ACTUALLY GIVIN' HIM HEAD! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
UGHH, NASTY, DUDE. I COULD NEVER DO THAT. I'D FUCKIN' DIE.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. YOU'RE THE GODDESS OF MY WORLD, BABY
REAL GENTLE. USE YOUR FINGERS, TOO.
C'MON, YUKI-CHAN. WHEN I COME, WE COME TOGETHER.


うぅぅぅ


AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA


YOU'RE FINE! YOU DID GREAT, I'M SERIOUS !!
OH GOD, I WAS SO SCARED, I COULD HAVE DIED! BUT I HAD TO DO IT! I HAD TO DO IT, OR I'D...
1994
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT HAPPENED?!
TAKA-CHAN'S CALMING HIM DOWN NOW.


REALLY?! DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?! I FINALLY DID IT! I ACTUALLY DID IT!
IT'S OKAY! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. YOU DID WHAT YOU NEEDED TO DO. YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.

17




WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? TAKAKO WENT IN BUT HASN'T COME OUT.
THEY'RE JUST FINE, DON'T WORRY.

18


ZZZ

TRANSLATED BY
STEPHEN PAUL

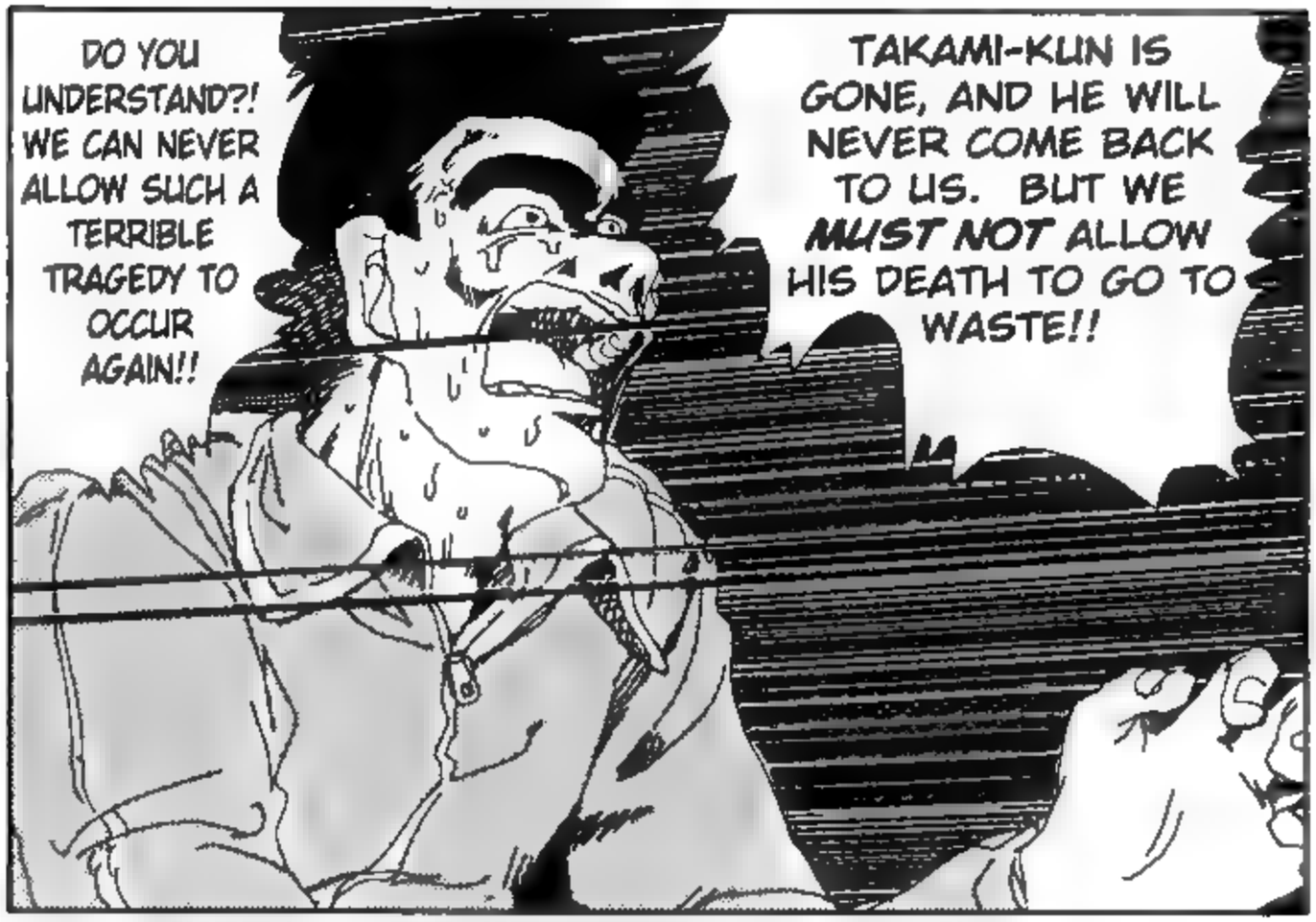
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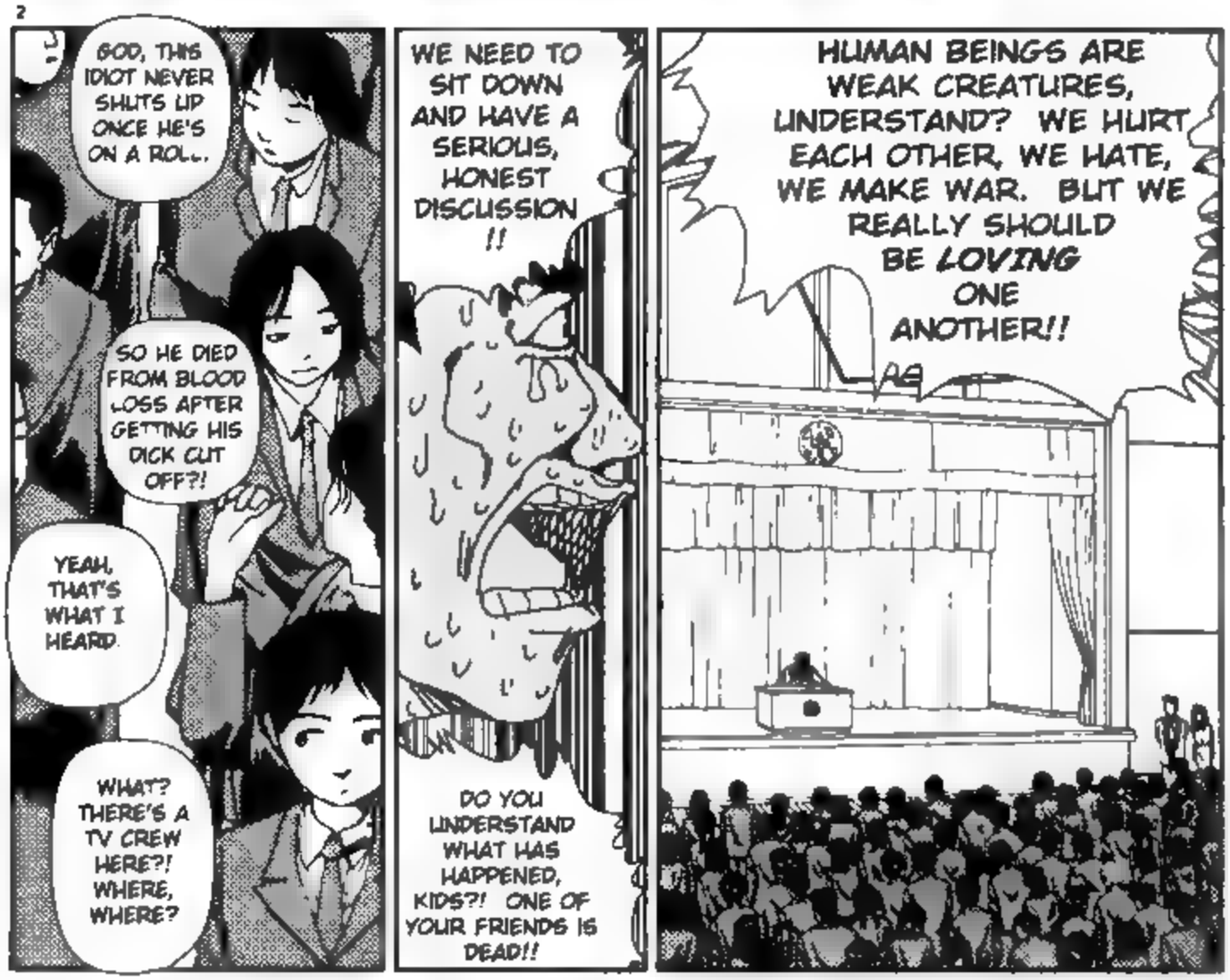
43

THE BARRICADE CONTINUES




DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! WE CAN NEVER ALLOW SUCH A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY TO OCCUR AGAIN!!
TAKAMI-KUN IS GONE, AND HE WILL NEVER COME BACK TO US. BUT WE MUST NOT ALLOW HIS DEATH TO GO TO WASTE!!

2


GOD, THIS IDIOT NEVER SHUTS UP ONCE HE'S ON A ROLL.
SO HE DIED FROM BLOOD LOSS AFTER GETTING HIS DICK CUT OFF?!
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
WHAT? THERE'S A TV CREW HERE?! WHERE, WHERE?
WE NEED TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A SERIOUS, HONEST DISCUSSION !!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED, KIDS?! ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS IS DEAD!!
HUMAN BEINGS ARE WEAK CREATURES, UNDERSTAND? WE HURT EACH OTHER, WE HATE, WE MAKE WAR. BUT WE REALLY SHOULD BE LOVING ONE ANOTHER!!


AT FIRST GLANCE, THE SCHOOL APPEARS TO BE TRANQUIL.
I AM HERE, STANDING BEFORE THE SCHOOL THAT WAS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME. AN ENTIRE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HAS JUST FINISHED.


I THINK HE WAS JUST LONELY. YOU KNOW?
YOU WANNA DROP BY KFC ON THE WAY HOME?
WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT. SHOULD I GET AN INTERVIEW?

3


LIKE, BULLYING IS BAD, BUT LIKE, KILLING IS ALSO LIKE...
HOW DOES IT FEEL, TO HAVE SUCH A TRAGEDY OCCUR RIGHT IN YOUR MIDST?

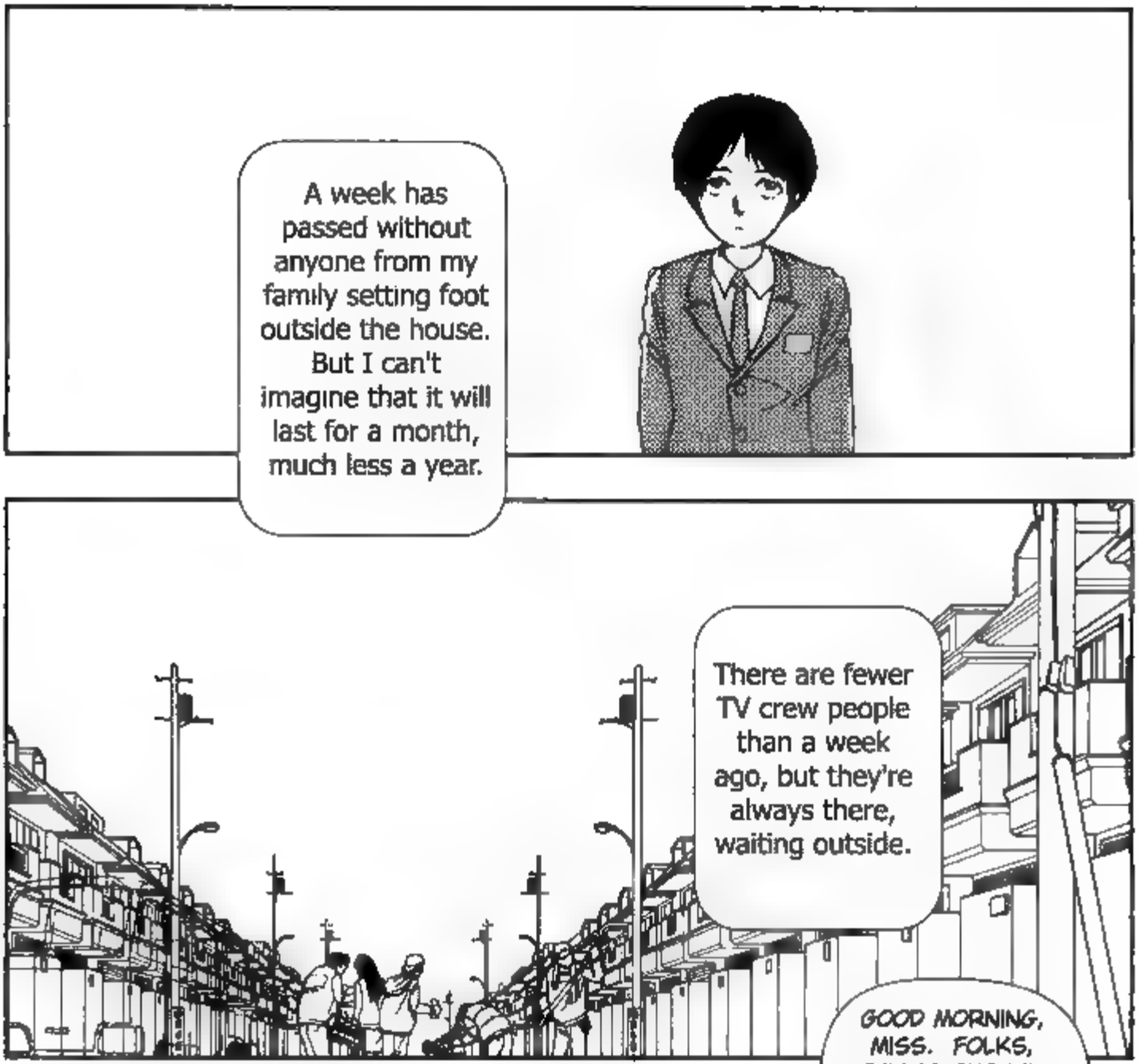

HOW DO YOU FEEL? IT'S A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.
AN UNTHINKABLE EVENT HAS OCCURRED RIGHT IN YOUR VERY VICINITY.
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF ASKING THOSE IMPOSSIBLE QUESTIONS LIKE WHO WAS RIGHT, OR WHAT WE SHOULD DO FOR THE BEREAVED FAMILY. I SIMPLY WANT TO HEAR YOUR HONEST THOUGHTS ABOUT THESE BOYS AND THE EVENTS THAT ENFOLDED THEM.
JUST WHO IS AT FAULT IN THIS SITUATION? IS IT THE BULLY, OR THE BOY WHO KILLED HIM? I'M SURE IT MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL, BUT DID HE REALLY NOT HAVE A CHOICE?
4
UH, HANG ON. I JUST WANTED AN ANSWER...




A week has passed with everyone shut up inside the house, except for me. Two days ago, the Bug joined us.

5


I've been put in charge of running errands. It's a pain, but honestly not as bad as I'd have thought.
The police show no signs of moving in, but neither have they relaxed their vigil. It's like they're waiting for something to happen.

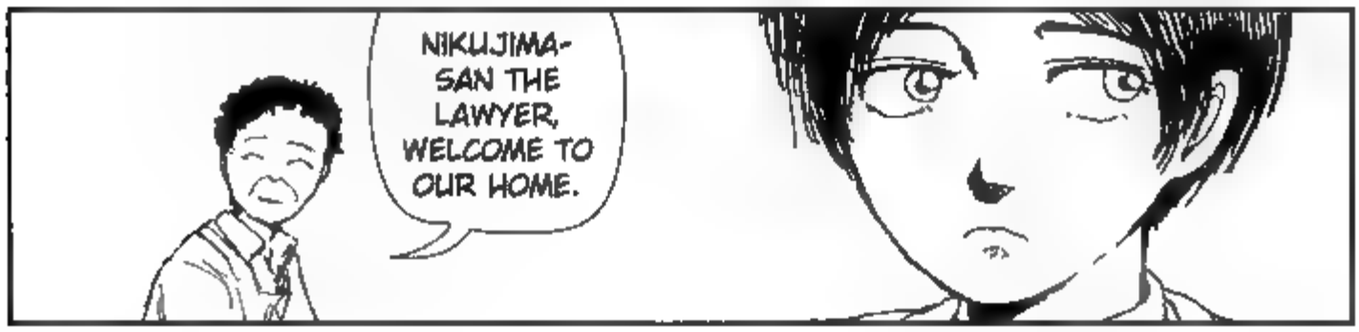

A week has passed without anyone from my family setting foot outside the house. But I can't imagine that it will last for a month, much less a year.
There are fewer TV crew people than a week ago, but they're always there, waiting outside.
6
HOW-! EXCUSE ME! HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW? HOW'S THE FAMILY IN THERE?! ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US!!
Reporters at school, reporters at home. I feel like I'm practically living on a variety show.
GOOD MORNING, MISS. FOLKS, THIS IS SUZUKI-SAN'S DAUGHTER. ODDLY ENOUGH, A STUDENT AT THE SAME SCHOOL THAT...


AS OBNOXIOUS AS THEY EVER WERE. HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN NOW?
My dad's been growing some nasty whiskers, even though it's not like he's out of razors.
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7


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I think Dad is enjoying the concept of barricading himself inside the house. It appeals to him somehow.
WELCOME HOME. CURRY FOR DINNER TONIGHT?
YOU'RE GETTING WAY TOO COMFORTABLE HERE.
ALL WE CAN HOPE IS THAT THIS CASE IS RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


PARDON THE INTRUSION.


NIKUJIMA-SAN THE LAWYER, WELCOME TO OUR HOME.

8


ACTUALLY ...
I CAME HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS *HIM*...

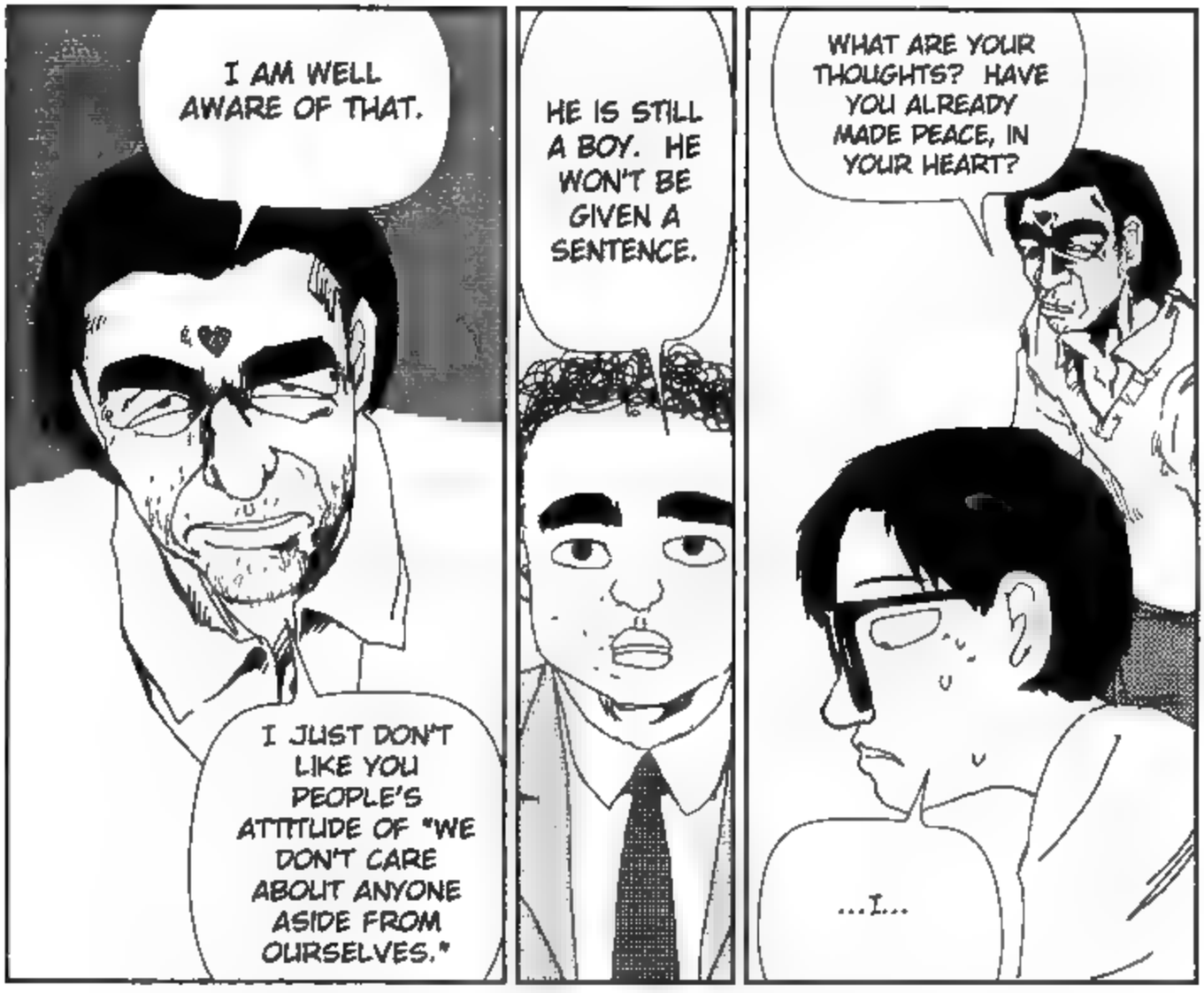

WE'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR *YOU*.
THIS IS REALLY A VERY HARD TIME FOR THE SMILEY-SMILE LIFE CENTER..




IT WOULD BE A VERY BAD THING FOR THE POLICE TO LEARN THAT HE IS HIDING HERE.
OUR CASE AND HIS ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED; OF THIS I AM WELL AWARE.

9


I DON'T BELIEVE THAT DELAYING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE POLICE IS IN ANY WAY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR HIM.
SO YOU WANT US TO TAKE HIM AND HAND HIM OVER TO THE COPS?


I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT.
I JUST DON'T LIKE YOU PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE OF "WE DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE ASIDE FROM OURSELVES."
HE IS STILL A BOY. HE WON'T BE GIVEN A SENTENCE.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? HAVE YOU ALREADY MADE PEACE, IN YOUR HEART?
...I...


WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE LOCKED UP IN THIS HOUSE, NEVER TO SET FOOT OUTSIDE AGAIN?

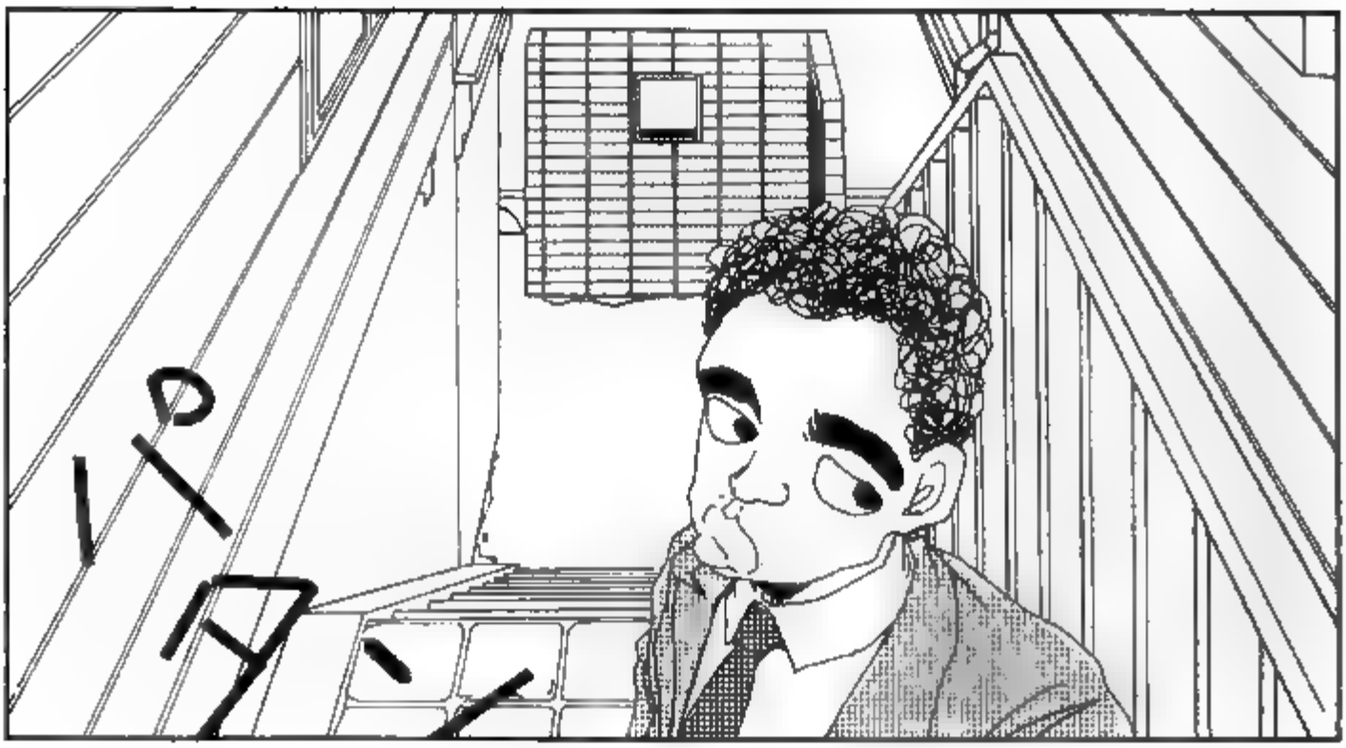
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...BUT... I...
.....


I THINK I SHOULD TURN MYSELF IN, TOO.
SUZUKI-SAN, THAT REALLY ISN'T WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW, FRANKLY SPEAKING ...
I'M THINKING OF TELLING THEM EVERYTHING. INCLUDING THAT I WAS SET UP AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF SMILEY-SMILE.

11

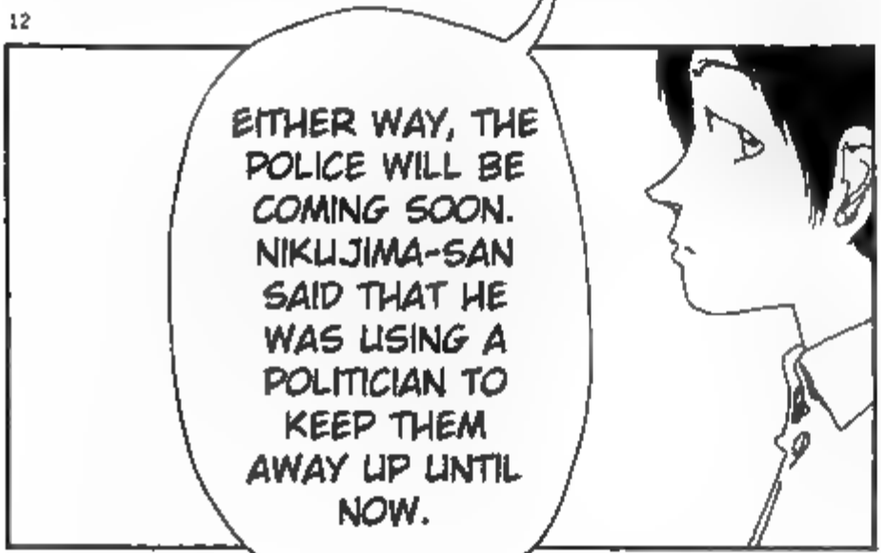

IT WAS THE GROUP THAT TAUGHT ME TO LIVE FOR MYSELF, AND NOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.




I HAVE A FEELING THEY'D BE MORE CALM TO TALK TO THAN YOU, DEAR.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR JOKES, DAMMIT!!

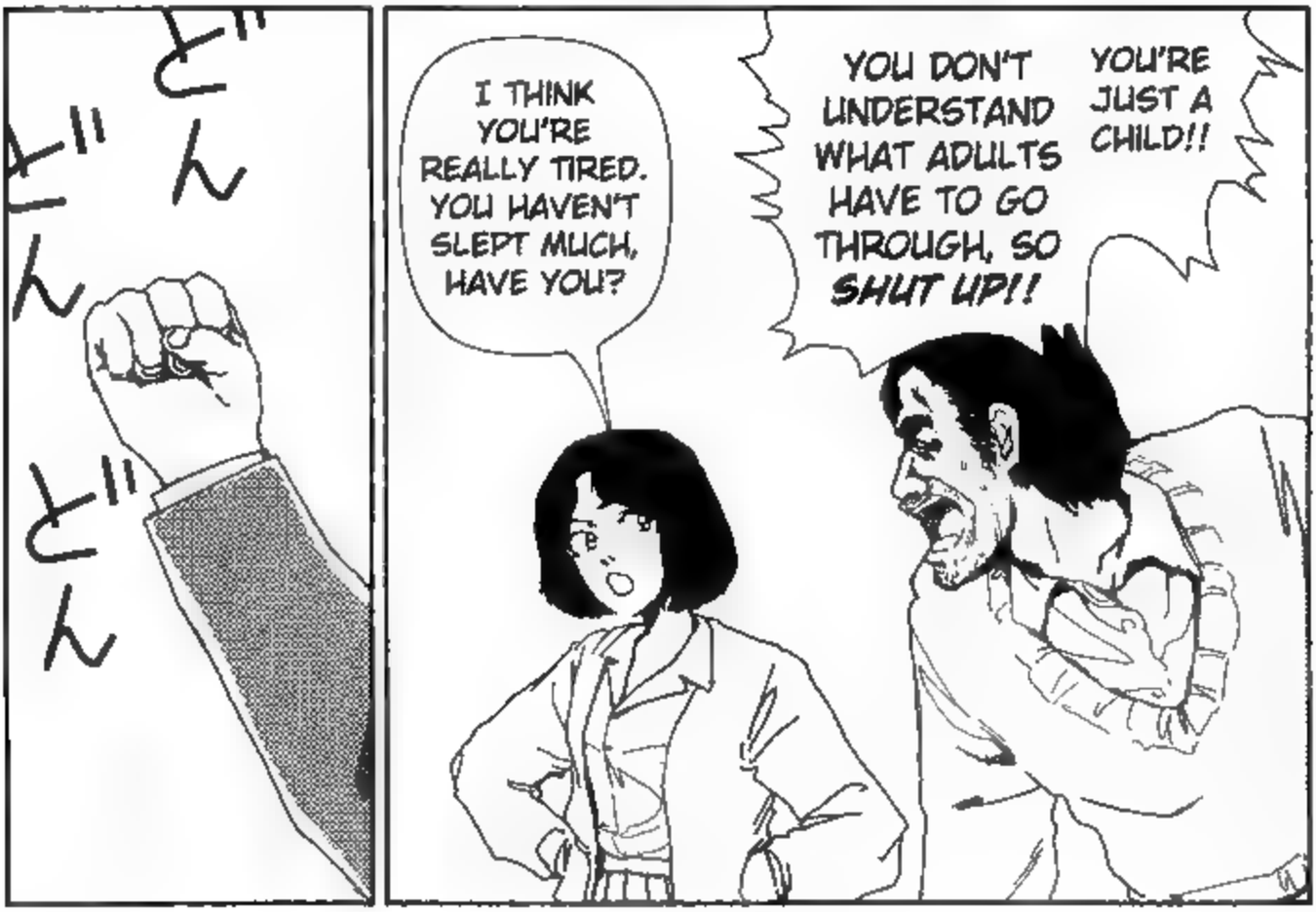

YOU'RE BEING PATHETICALLY NAIVE!!
THE POLICE ARE NOT AS KIND AND UNDER-STANDING AS YOU THINK THEY ARE!!

12


EITHER WAY, THE POLICE WILL BE COMING SOON. NIKUJIMA-SAN SAID THAT HE WAS USING A POLITICIAN TO KEEP THEM AWAY UP UNTIL NOW.


I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE UP AND LET MOM DO WHAT SHE WANTS, DAD.
YOU'VE BEEN REALLY CRAZY LATELY. NOT EVEN PIGHEADED OR IRRITABLE LIKE USUAL, I MEAN JUST PLAIN CRAZY. ESPECIALLY THE PAST WEEK.

13


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I THINK YOU'RE REALLY TIRED. YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT MUCH, HAVE YOU?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ADULTS HAVE TO GO THROUGH, SO SHUT UP!!
YOU'RE JUST A CHILD!!


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BUZZ OFF! WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW!!
YOU KIDS GO UPSTAIRS.

14


どんどん
OH, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT. WE JUST HAD IT REPLACED.
BEGONE! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU, FOUL MISCREANT SCUM...
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR, OR WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT DOWN, SUZUKI-SAN.
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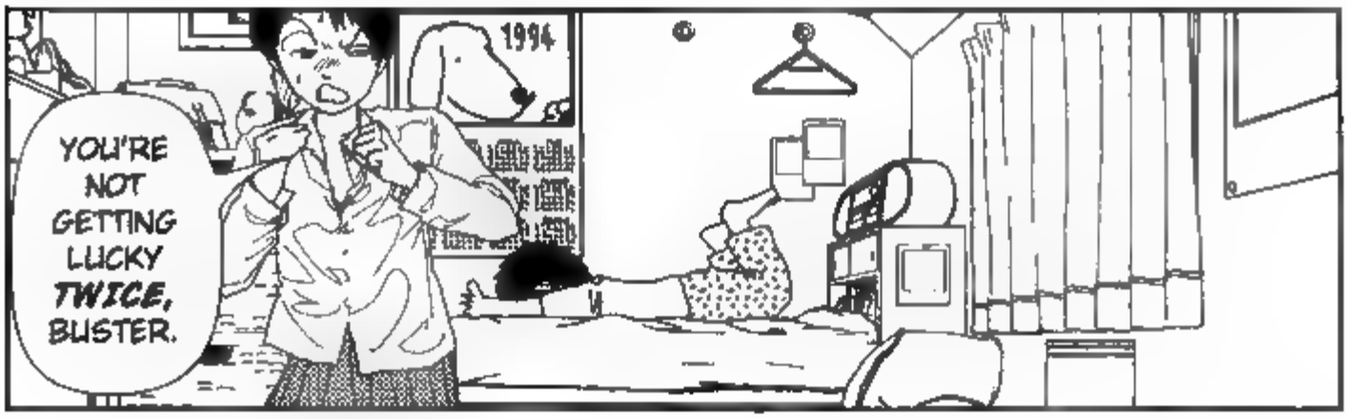
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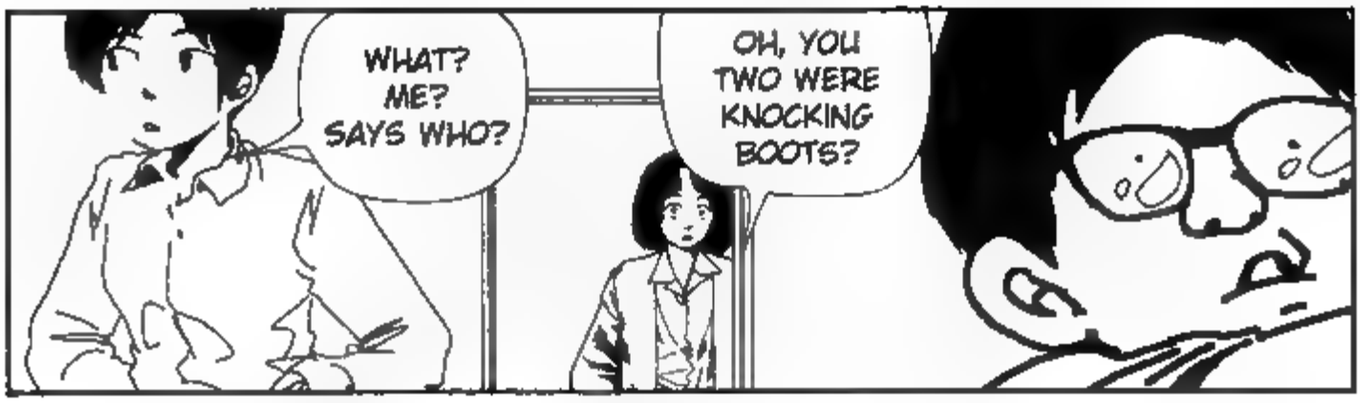



I'M SCARED!
I'M TOO SCARED!
I'M A MURDERER
...
CHILL OUT! JUST SETTLE DOWN, BUG!!


WHAT DO I DO, WHAT DO I DO...
I WISH I COULD LIVE HERE WITH YOU FOREVER.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT...

16


1994
YOU'RE NOT GETTING LUCKY TWICE, BUSTER.


WHAT? ME? SAYS WHO?
OH, YOU TWO WERE KNOCKING BOOTS?

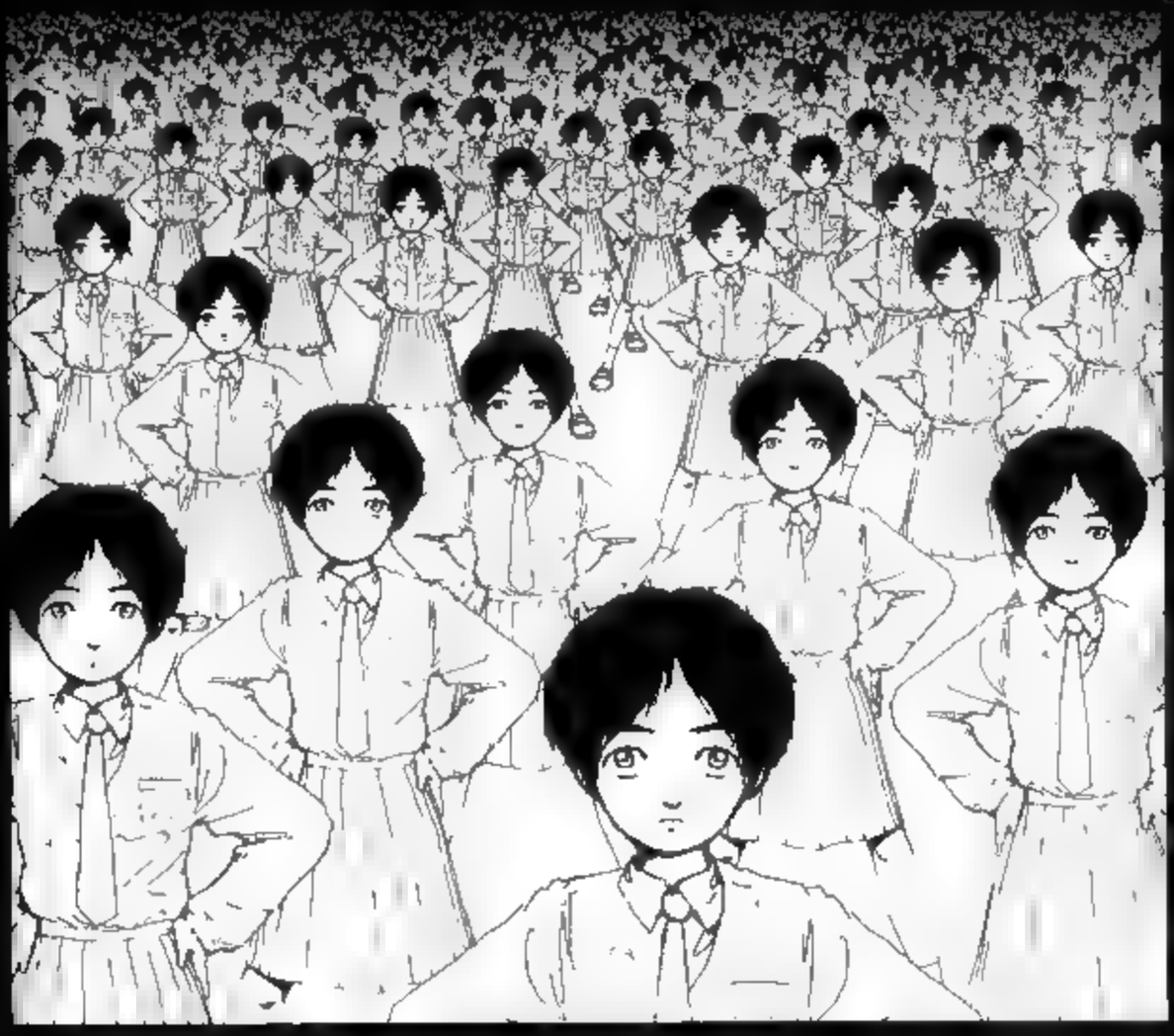

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAD?


WELL, YOU'D BETTER COME SEE THIS...

17


UH...
UHRRRR RRRRRR RRRR...


HELP THE MAN OUT OF HIS SHIRT.
WELL, HE'S BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY...
SIR.
...IT'S, IT'S JUST A STOMACH CRAMP...
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL PASS SOON...
NO, HE JUST FELL OVER AND STARTED MOANING...
HE GOT SHOT?
おおおおおう
HUH?
SO YOU WERE IN HERE.
18
ISN'T THAT...



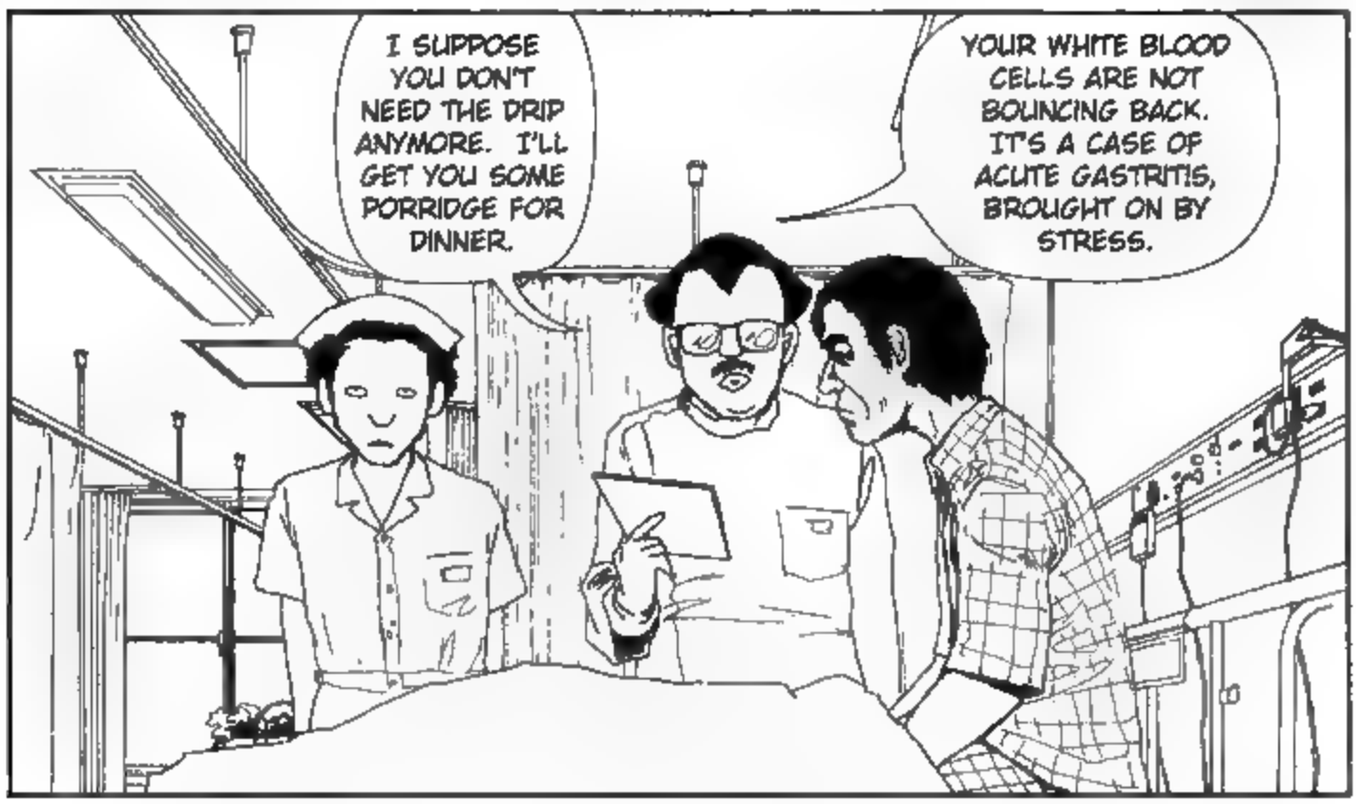
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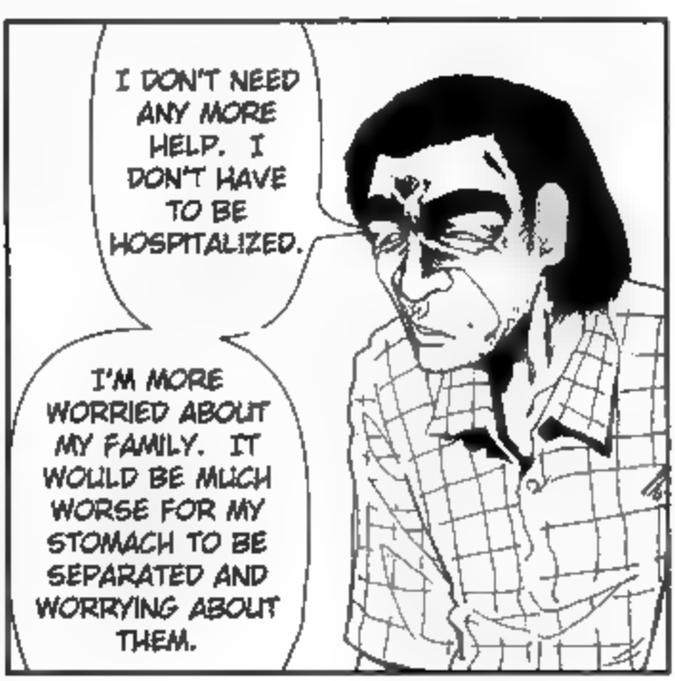
44 DAD REMINISCES



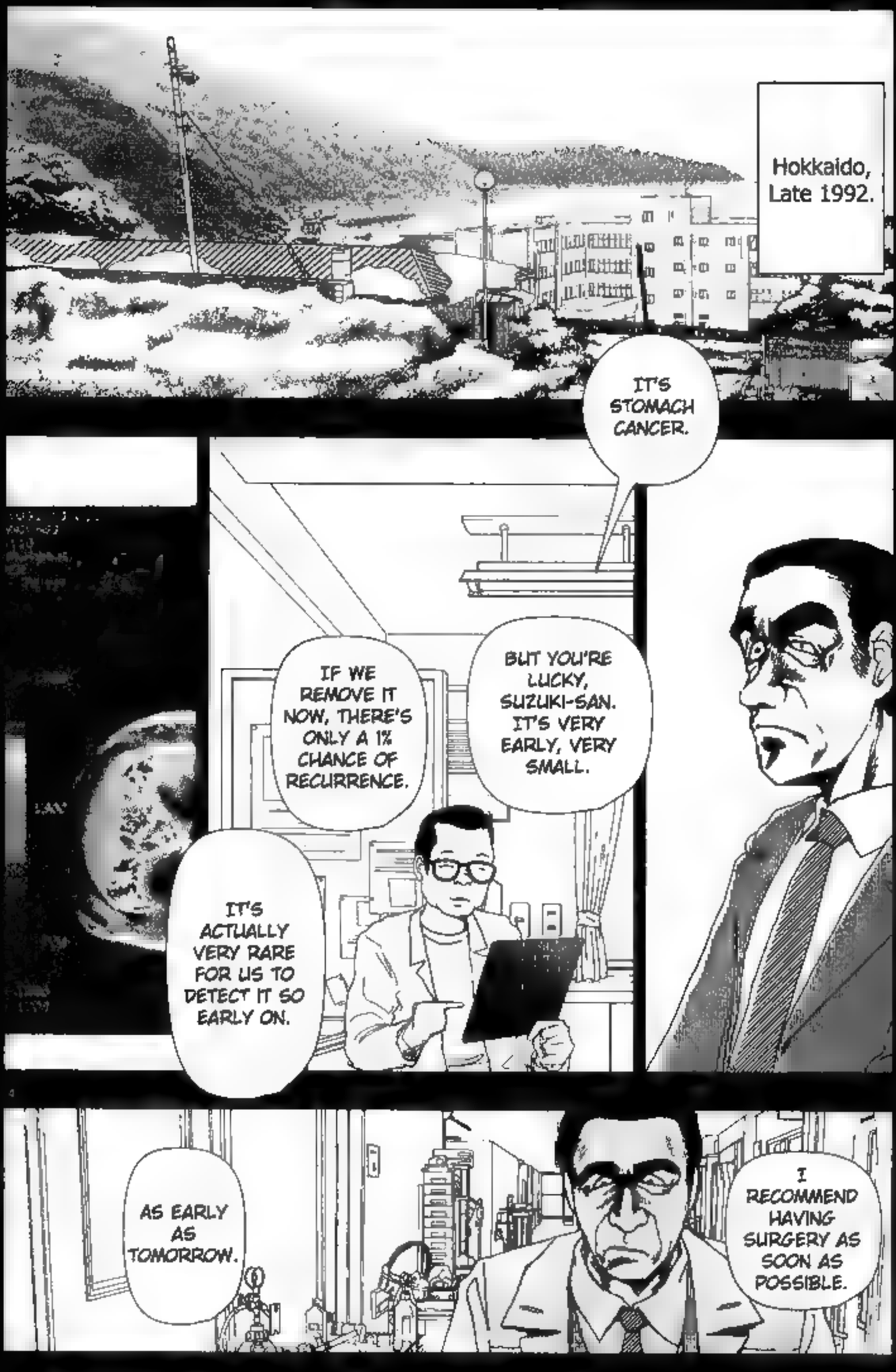

I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T NEED THE DRIP ANYMORE. I'LL GET YOU SOME PORRIDGE FOR DINNER.
YOUR WHITE BLOOD CELLS ARE NOT BOUNCING BACK. IT'S A CASE OF ACUTE GASTRITIS, BROUGHT ON BY STRESS.

2


I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT YOU JUST GOT SICK TWO DAYS AGO. YOU NEED ANOTHER TWO OR THREE DAYS OF REST.

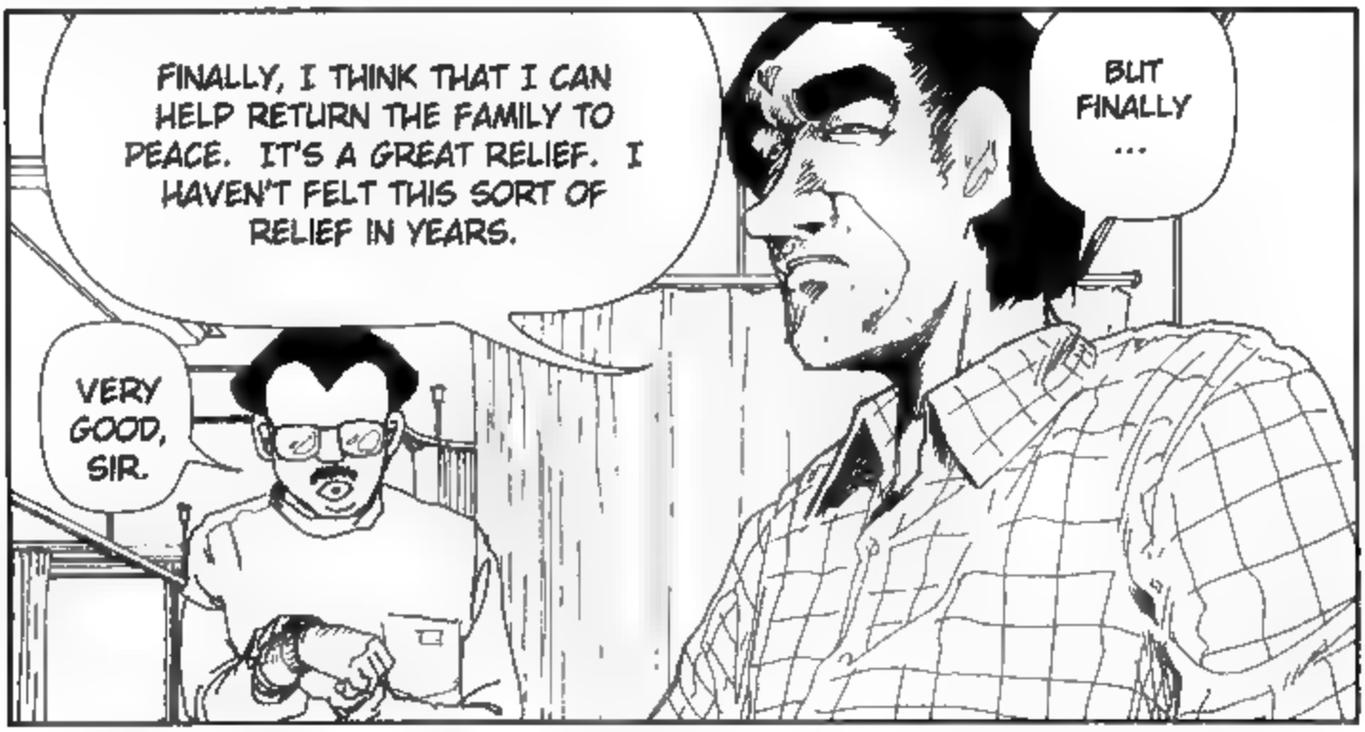

I DON'T NEED ANY MORE HELP. I DON'T HAVE TO BE HOSPITALIZED.
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT MY FAMILY. IT WOULD BE MUCH WORSE FOR MY STOMACH TO BE SEPARATED AND WORRYING ABOUT THEM.

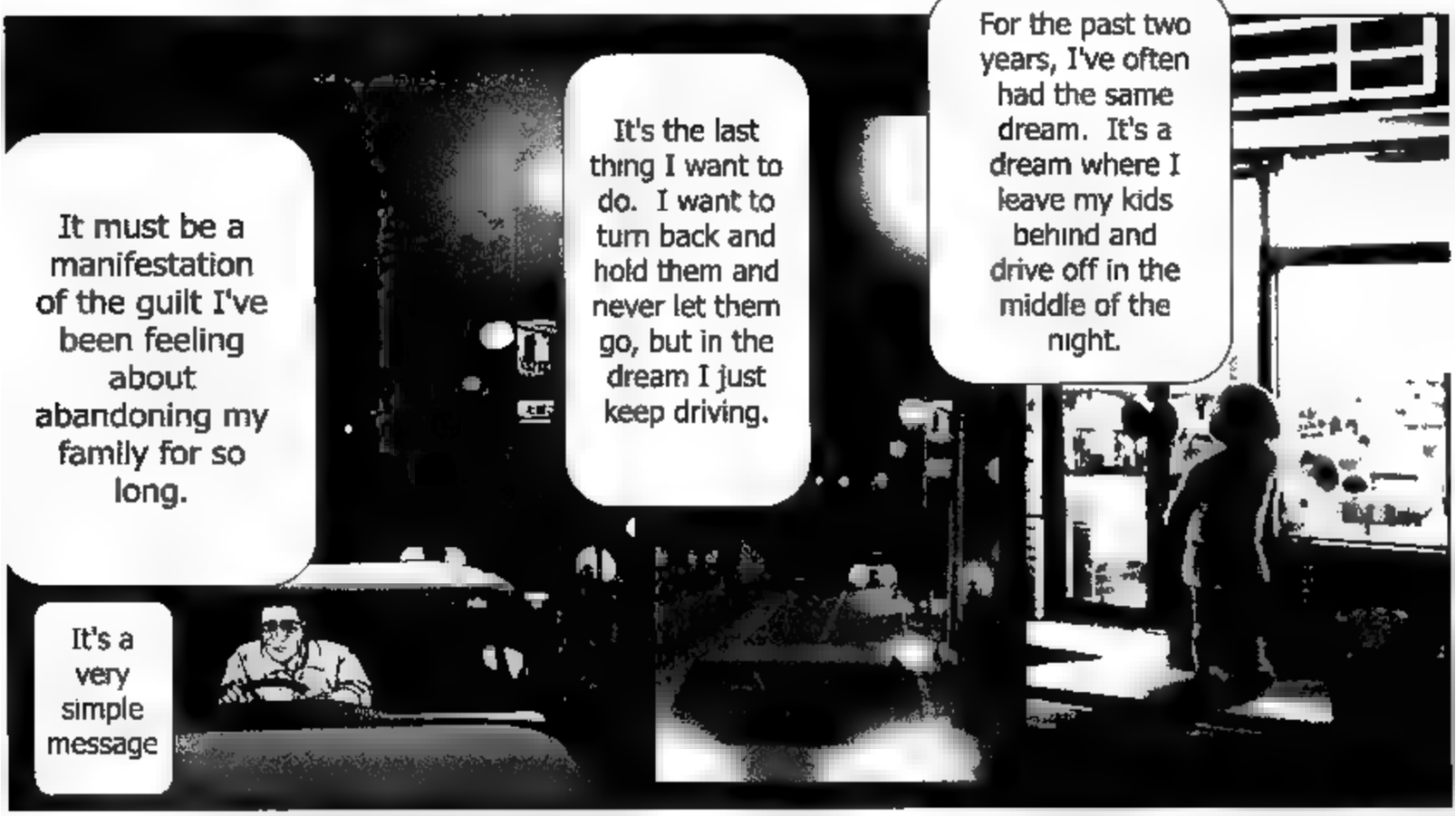

THIS ISN'T A RECURRENCE OF YOUR STOMACH CANCER FROM TWO YEARS AGO.
I THINK.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'RE NOT...
3
BUT IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE ANOTHER CHECK-UP.
YOU COULD SAY YOU PICKED A GOOD TIME TO GET SICK AGAIN.


Hokkaido, Late 1992.
IT'S STOMACH CANCER.
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY, SUZUKI-SAN. IT'S VERY EARLY, VERY SMALL.
IF WE REMOVE IT NOW, THERE'S ONLY A 1% CHANCE OF RECURRENCE.
IT'S ACTUALLY VERY RARE FOR US TO DETECT IT SO EARLY ON.
I RECOMMEND HAVING SURGERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AS EARLY AS TOMORROW.


I'LL BE FINE. IT'S JUST A TINY LITTLE TUMOR. PRACTICALLY A BOIL.
THIS REALLY CAME OUT OF THE BLUE.
ARE YOU ALLOWED TO SMOKE?
DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
NOW, OF ALL TIMES.
SURGERY'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
YES, YES, OF COURSE.
. . . . .
ANYWAYS, HOW IS THE BIDDING GOING?
HAVE YOU CLEARED EVERYTHING WITH DESIGN? AND THE HEAD OFFICE?
I HAVE TO GET THIS OVER AND DONE WITH ASAP...
YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE COMPANY.
NO, THAT WOULD JUST MAKE THEM WORRY.
KEEP IT QUIET FROM THEM. AND THE H.O. AS WELL.
...I THINK YOU SHOULD PROBABLY INFORM YOUR FAMILY IN TOKYO, THOUGH...

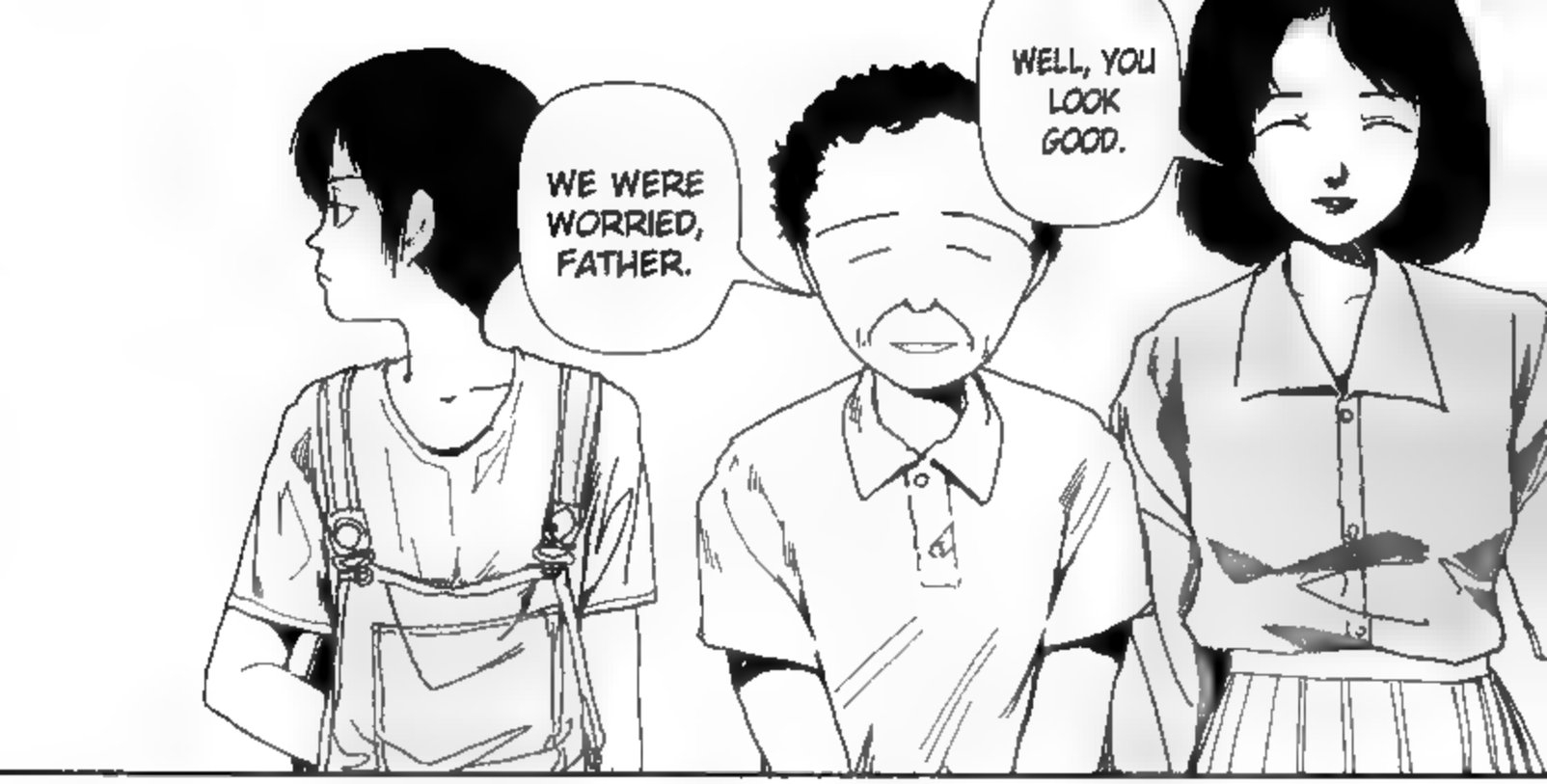

I DON'T SEE ANY METASTATIS OR RELAPSING.
CONGRAT ULATIONS.
IT MUST BE A RELIEF FOR YOU.
REALLY.
REALLY?
6
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY SOMETIMES. WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS. NOT THAT I BELIEVE IN LUCK OR HOROSCOPES OR ANY OF THAT NONSENSE.
AND THE LAST THING I NEEDED WAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
AHH, I SEE.
EVER SINCE I FINISHED UP THIS 5-YEAR TRANSFER ASSIGNMENT LAST YEAR, I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

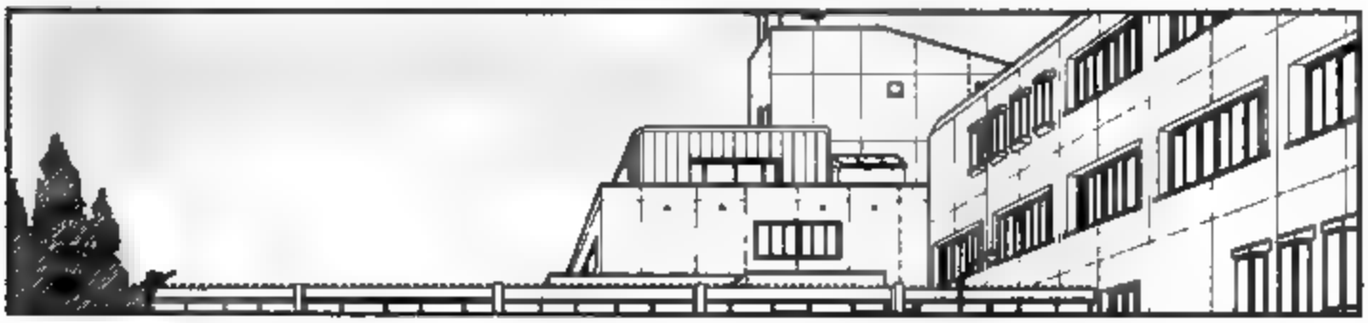

FINALLY, I THINK THAT I CAN HELP RETURN THE FAMILY TO PEACE. IT'S A GREAT RELIEF. I HAVEN'T FELT THIS SORT OF RELIEF IN YEARS.
BUT FINALLY ...
VERY GOOD, SIR.

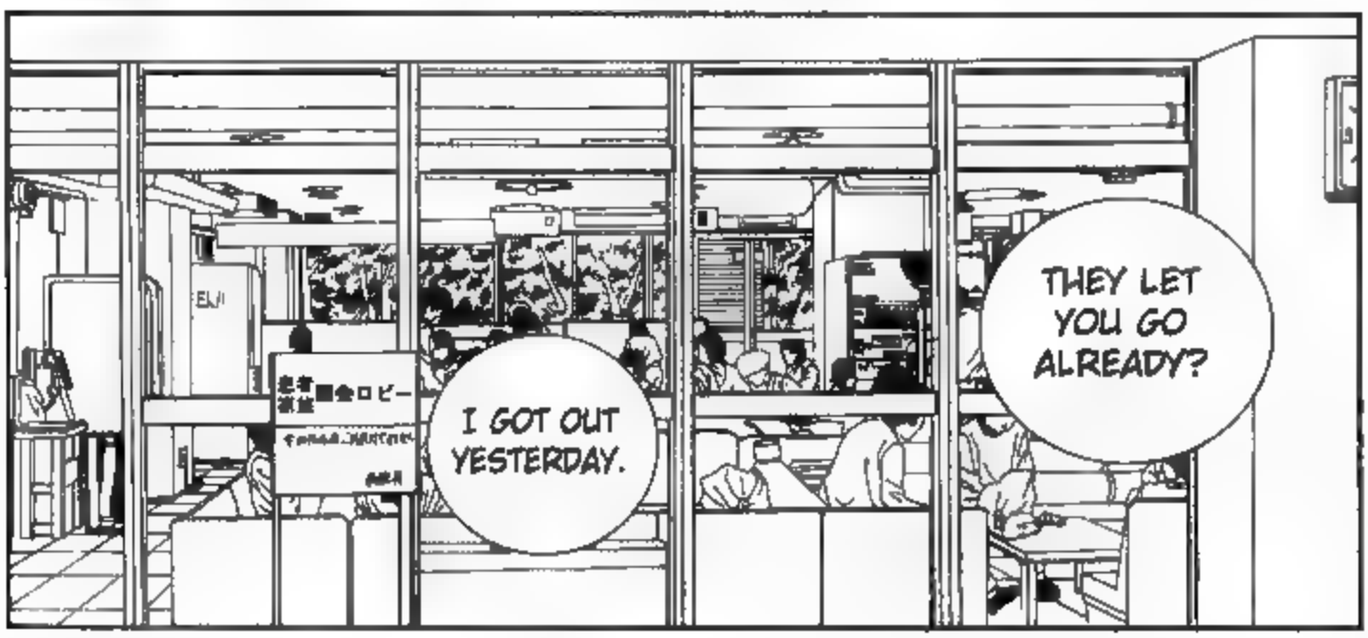

It must be a manifestation of the guilt I've been feeling about abandoning my family for so long.
It's the last thing I want to do. I want to turn back and hold them and never let them go, but in the dream I just keep driving.
For the past two years, I've often had the same dream. It's a dream where I leave my kids behind and drive off in the middle of the night.
It's a very simple message

7

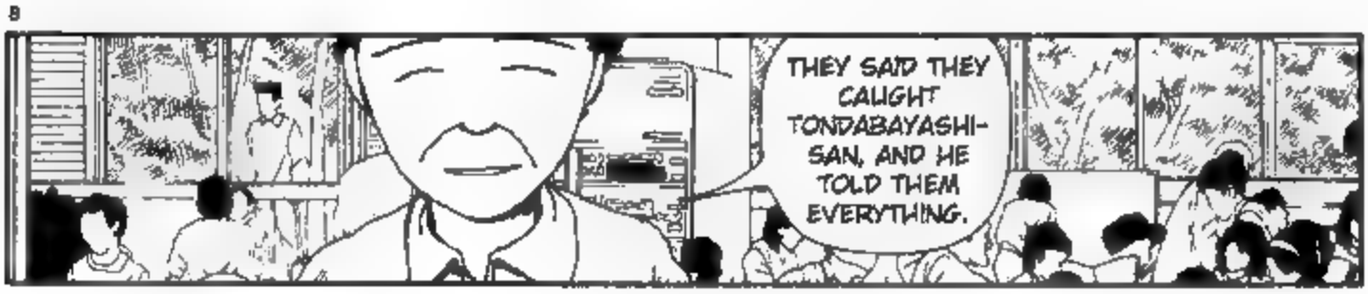

OH, WELCOME BACK.
BUT I'M FINALLY WAKING FROM THAT NIGHTMARE ...


WELL, YOU LOOK GOOD.
WE WERE WORRIED, FATHER.




I GOT OUT YESTERDAY.
THEY LET YOU GO ALREADY?

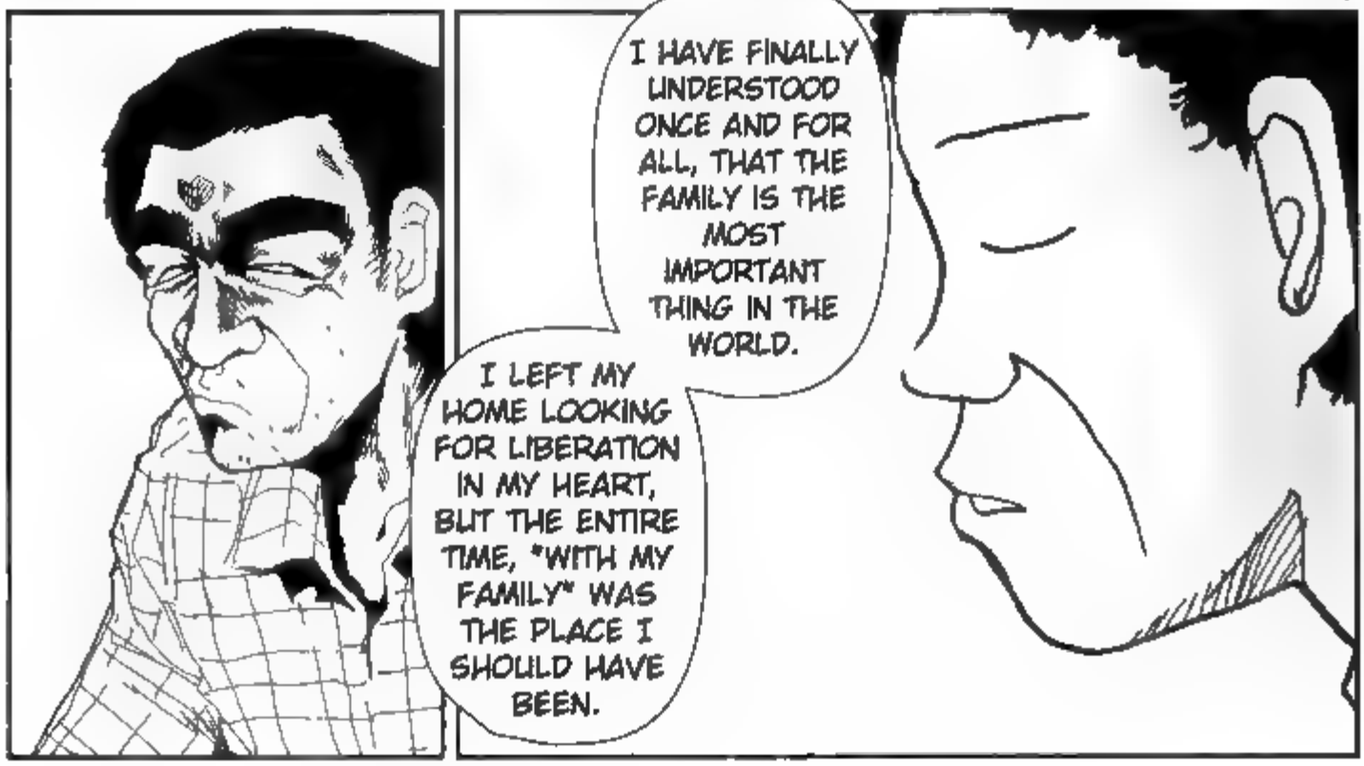
B


THEY SAID THEY CAUGHT TONDABAYASHI-SAN, AND HE TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.


IT WAS ONLY A VERY YOUNG TUMOR. I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO WORRY YOU OVER NOTHING.
I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, HOWEVER.
YOU NEVER TOLD US YOU HAD SURGERY IN HOKKAIDO.
IT WAS SUCH A TERRIBLE SHOCK WHEN WE SAW THAT SCAR ON YOUR STOMACH.


THIS ORDEAL HAS TRULY OPENED MY EYES.

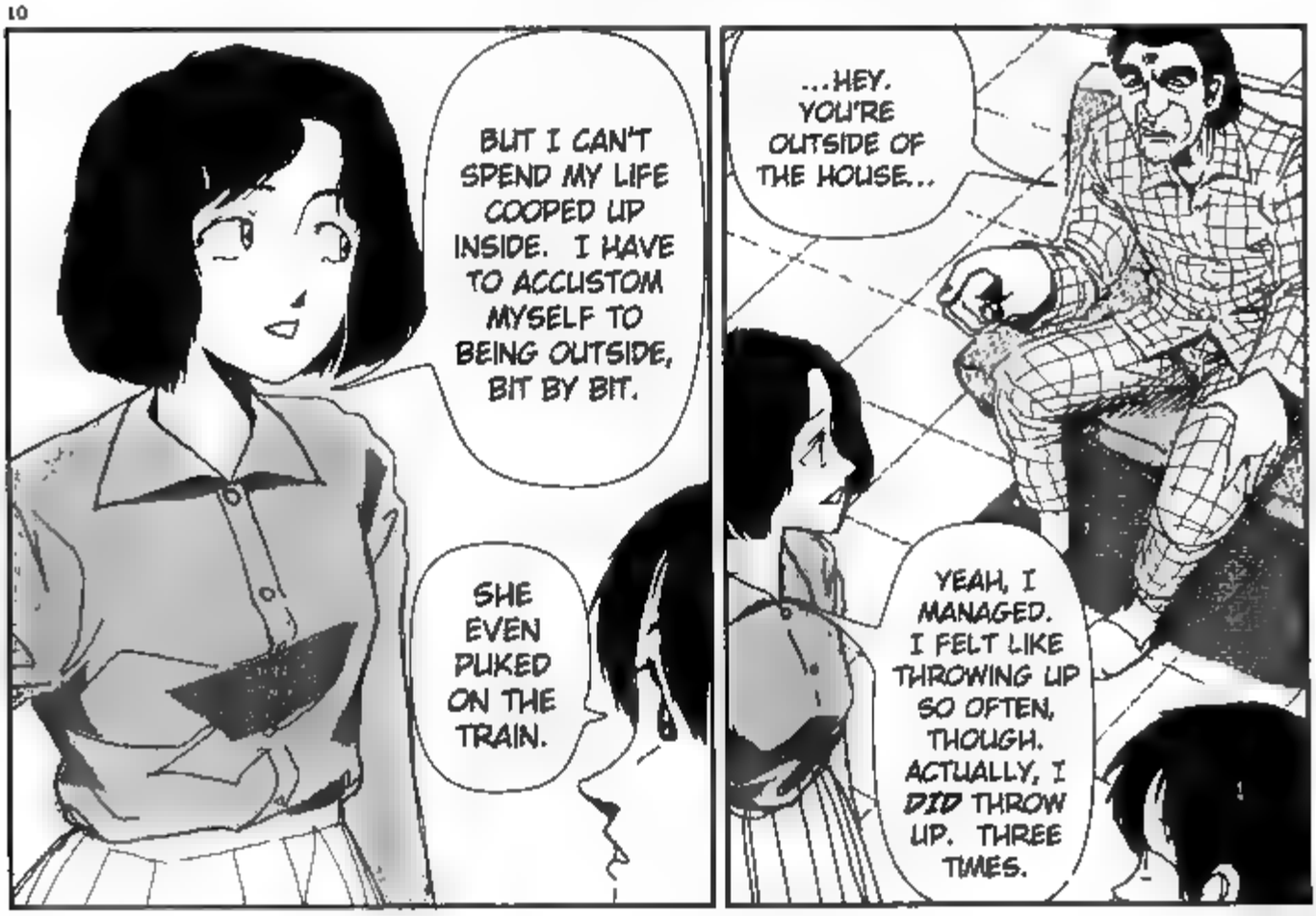
9


I HAVE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT THE FAMILY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD.
I LEFT MY HOME LOOKING FOR LIBERATION IN MY HEART, BUT THE ENTIRE TIME, "WITH MY FAMILY" WAS THE PLACE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN.


HE PROBABLY DOESN'T TRUST YOU YET, BECAUSE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND SO OFTEN, MOM.
...NO. NO, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
...YOU LOOK DUBIOUS. IS THERE STILL SOMETHING WRONG WITH WHAT I'M SAYING?

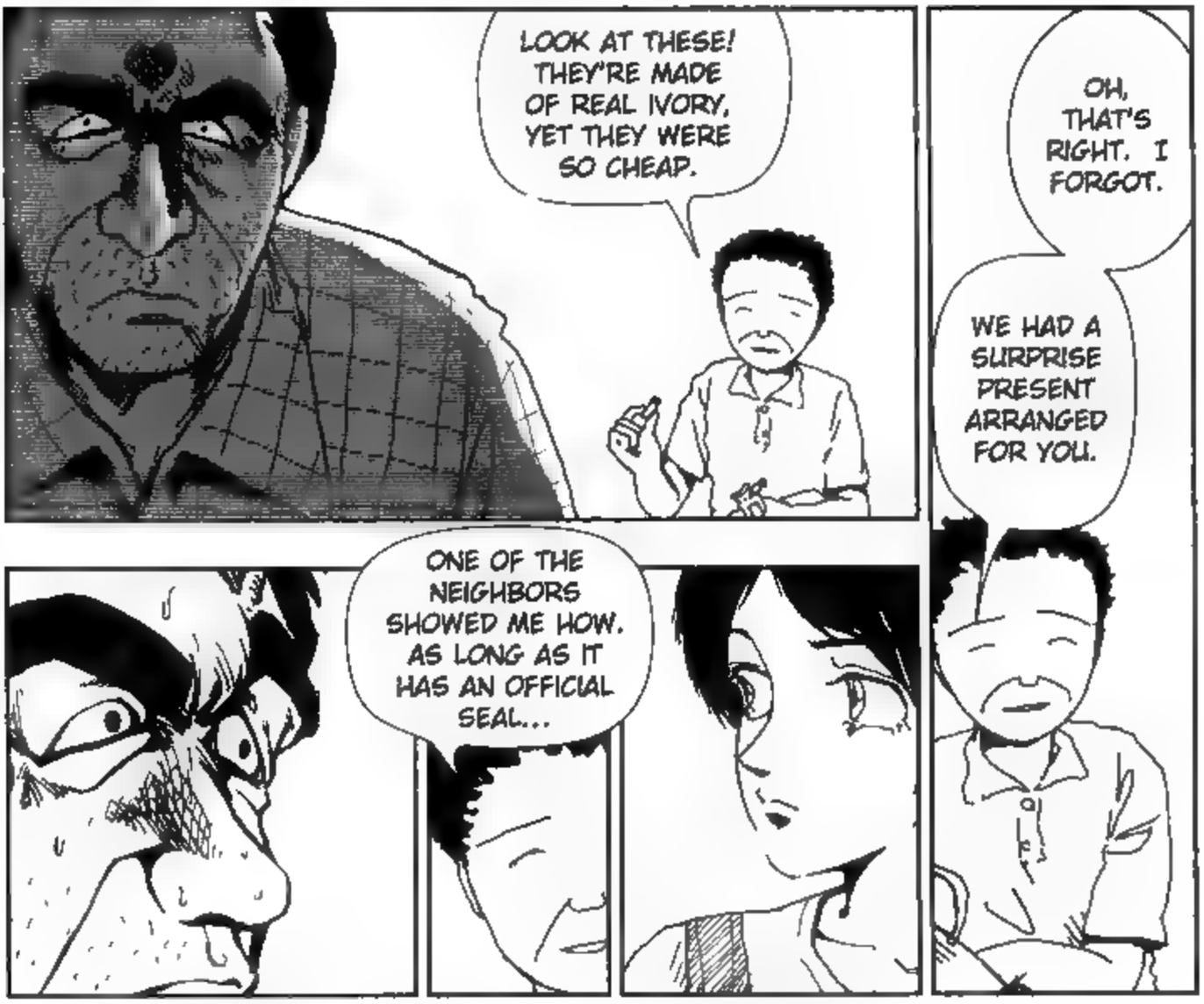


10


BUT I CAN'T SPEND MY LIFE COOPED UP INSIDE. I HAVE TO ACCUSTOM MYSELF TO BEING OUTSIDE, BIT BY BIT.
SHE EVEN PUKED ON THE TRAIN.
...HEY. YOU'RE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE...
YEAH, I MANAGED. I FELT LIKE THROWING UP SO OFTEN, THOUGH. ACTUALLY, I *DID* THROW UP. THREE TIMES.

ありがとう④


...IT'S SO PEACEFUL.
How long has it been since I've felt so peaceful?
THEY SAID THE BUG WILL ONLY GET ABOUT THREE MONTHS IN THE REFORMATORY.
HE IS A SWEET BOY, AT HEART. I LIKE HIM.
I feel like it's taken so long to get here, but finally my **REAL** "life" is about to begin.
WHY DON'T WE CELEBRATE FOR HIM, WHEN HE GETS OUT?


LOOK AT THESE! THEY'RE MADE OF REAL IVORY, YET THEY WERE SO CHEAP.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I FORGOT.
WE HAD A SURPRISE PRESENT ARRANGED FOR YOU.
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS SHOWED ME HOW. AS LONG AS IT HAS AN OFFICIAL SEAL...

12


ALL IT TAKES IS A STAMP, DAD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BITE HER HEAD OFF.
I MEAN, WHY CAN'T MOM DO WHAT SHE WANTS A LITTLE? THIS IS JUST HOW YOU WERE ACTING BEFORE. BESIDES, I ALSO WANT ...
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED A *THING*?!
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS STAMP FOR IT. AND I...
YOU SAID YOUR EYES WERE JUST OPENED!!

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...I THINK THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO MOVE OUT AND LIVE ON MY OWN.
YOU "ALSO"? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, TOO. OUT WITH IT...

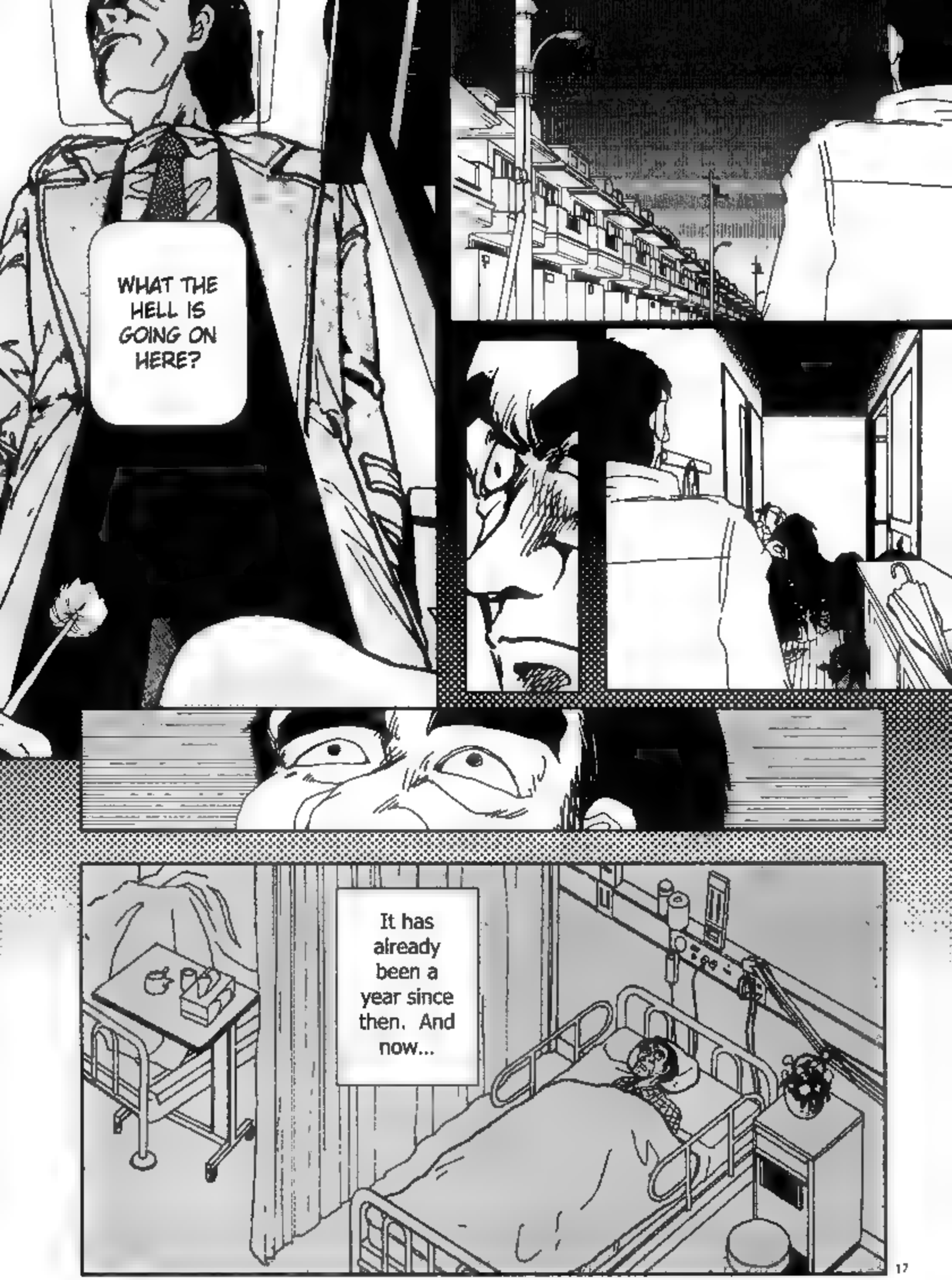

I WANT TO FOCUS ON STUDYING FOR COLLEGE EXAMS. I DON'T WANT TO GO FAR AWAY. I'LL BE CLOSE TO HOME. BESIDES, I HAVE SOME SAVINGS, AND I CAN GET A JOB...
I'M TALKING ABOUT IN THE FUTURE A WAYS. ONCE I CAN GO OUT IN PUBLIC FINE.
OOH, OOH! I WANNA MOVE OUT, TOO!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TIME WHEN WE CAN FINALLY LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AS A FAMILY!!
WHAT KIND OF A CRAZY, NONSENSE IDEA IS THAT?!

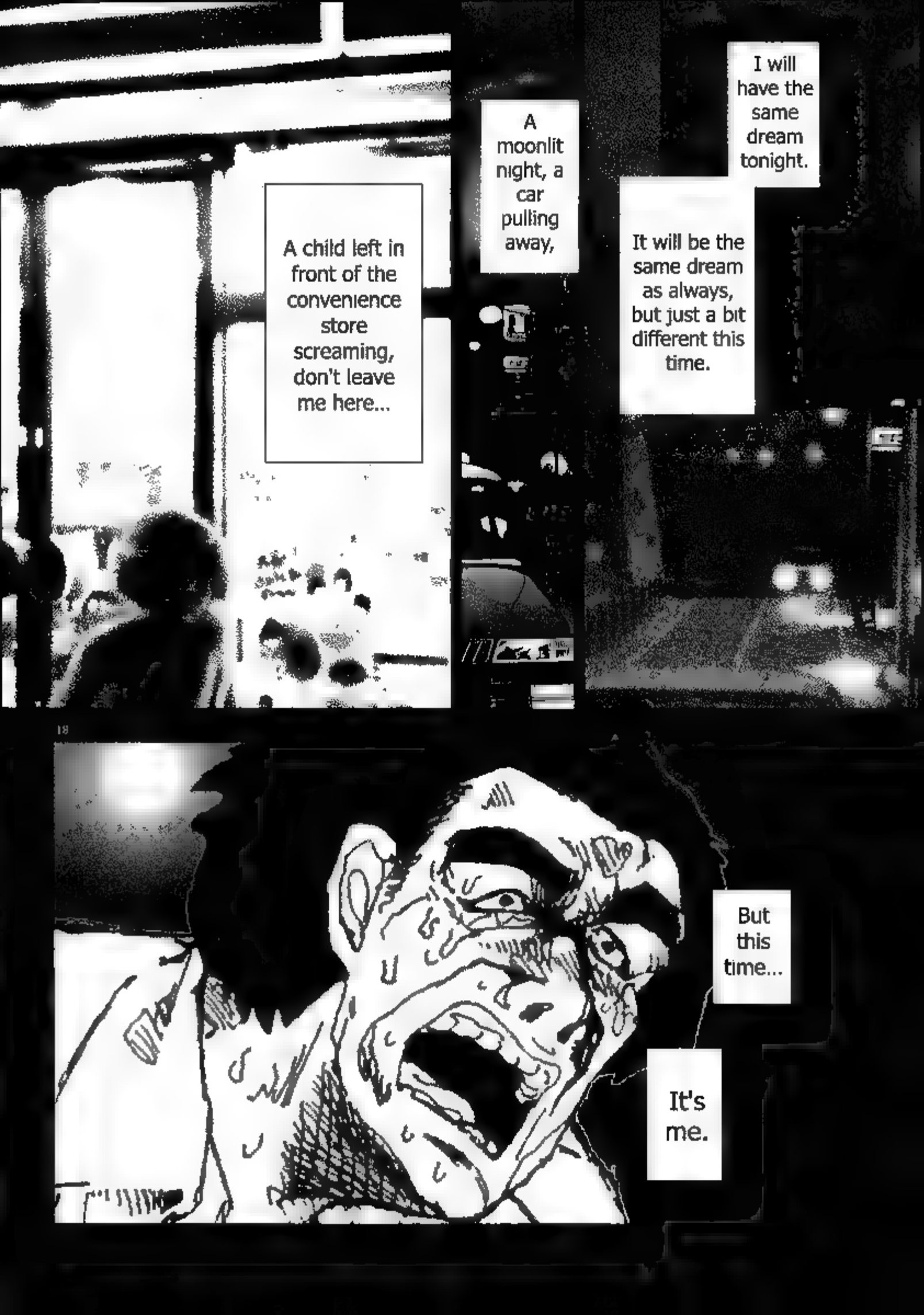

WELL I DON'T WANNA BE STUCK AT HOME GETTING ALL OF DAD'S ATTENTION!
NOT IN A GOOD WAY.
SO WHAT? I'M A WOMAN NOW.
YOU CAN'T! YOU'RE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.


WELL, EVERYTHING LOOKS GREAT. YOU SHOULD GET THE STITCHES OUT IN 2-3 DAYS.
BOY, THEY REALLY CUT YOU UP.
YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN. NO CHANCE OF METASTASIS, EITHER.
EARLY DISCOVERY OR NOT, I GUESS CANCER'S STILL CANCER.


BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T TELL THE PATIENT. WORRYING THEM CAN WORSEN THE RECUPERATION PERIOD.
Smoking Room
IF I'D MISSED IT ON THIS CHECKUP, HE COULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE. THESE DELICATE TYPES TEND TO FALL PRETTY FAST.
WELL, THE THING IS, IT WAS ACTUALLY MORE ADVANCED THAN I'D THOUGHT.
OF COURSE, I CUT IT OUT ANYWAYS.
15
SUZUKI HOUSEHOLD. OH, HELLO DEAR! THIS IS RARE. WHAT IS IT?
OH, IT'S NOTHING MUCH. JUST WANTED TO KNOW HOW THINGS WERE GOING.
RIGHT, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE BACK TOO SOON. THERE'S A BIG DEAL COMING THROUGH.


HOW DID SHOUKO'S EXAM GO? TAKAKO! RIGHT, RIGHT.
WELL, AS LONG AS THEY'RE DOING ALL RIGHT. THAT'S GOOD.
I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER DIME TO PUT IN; I'LL HAVE TO HANG UP. HELLO, ARE YOU THERE?
I'M STILL HERE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. JUST KEEP AT YOUR JOB.
TO THE HEAD OFFICE?
Resignation
OH, AND... TWO PUDDINGS. AND ALSO ...
I CAN DEAL WITH IT.
I HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK ON MY FAMILY FOR YEARS. THIS'LL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
THAT'S TOO BAD. YOU WON'T GET TO FINISH THE PROJECT.


WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?
It has already been a year since then. And now...


A child left in front of the convenience store screaming, don't leave me here...
A moonlit night, a car pulling away,
I will have the same dream tonight.
It will be the same dream as always, but just a bit different this time.
But this time...
It's me.

TRANSLATED BY
STEPHEN PAUL

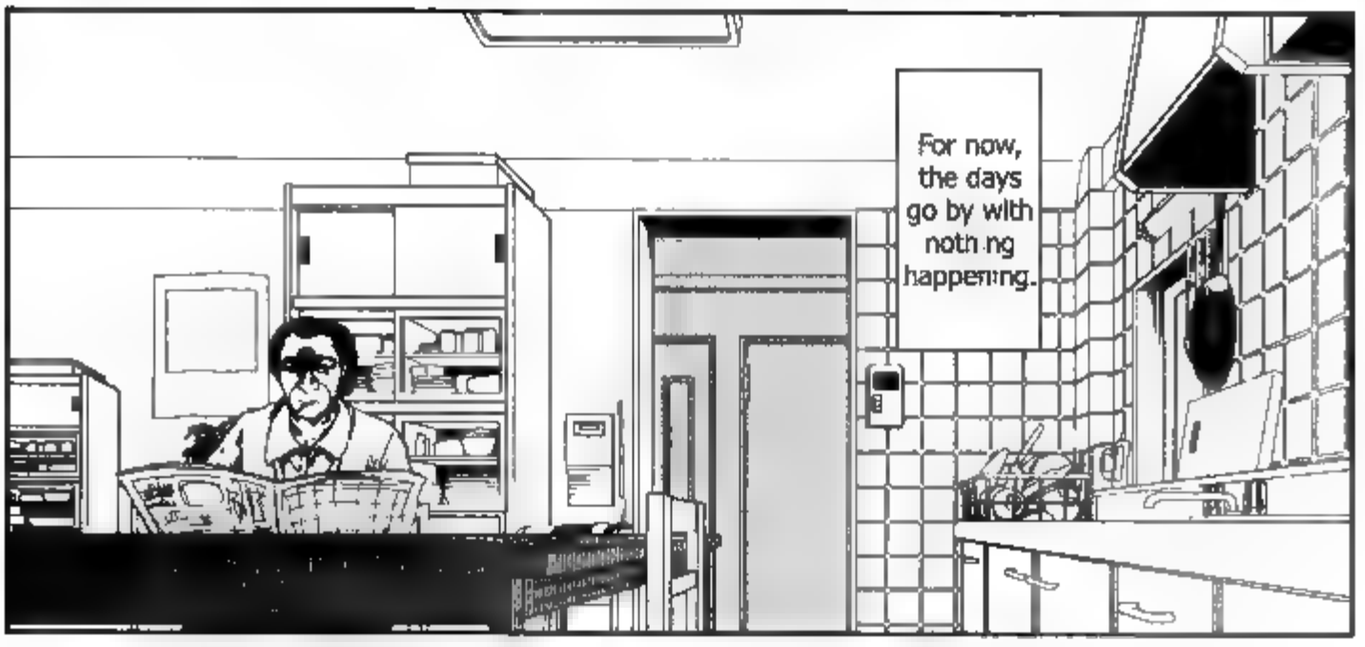
SCANNED AND
EDITED BY GATSU

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THE COMPANY MAN COMES AGAIN

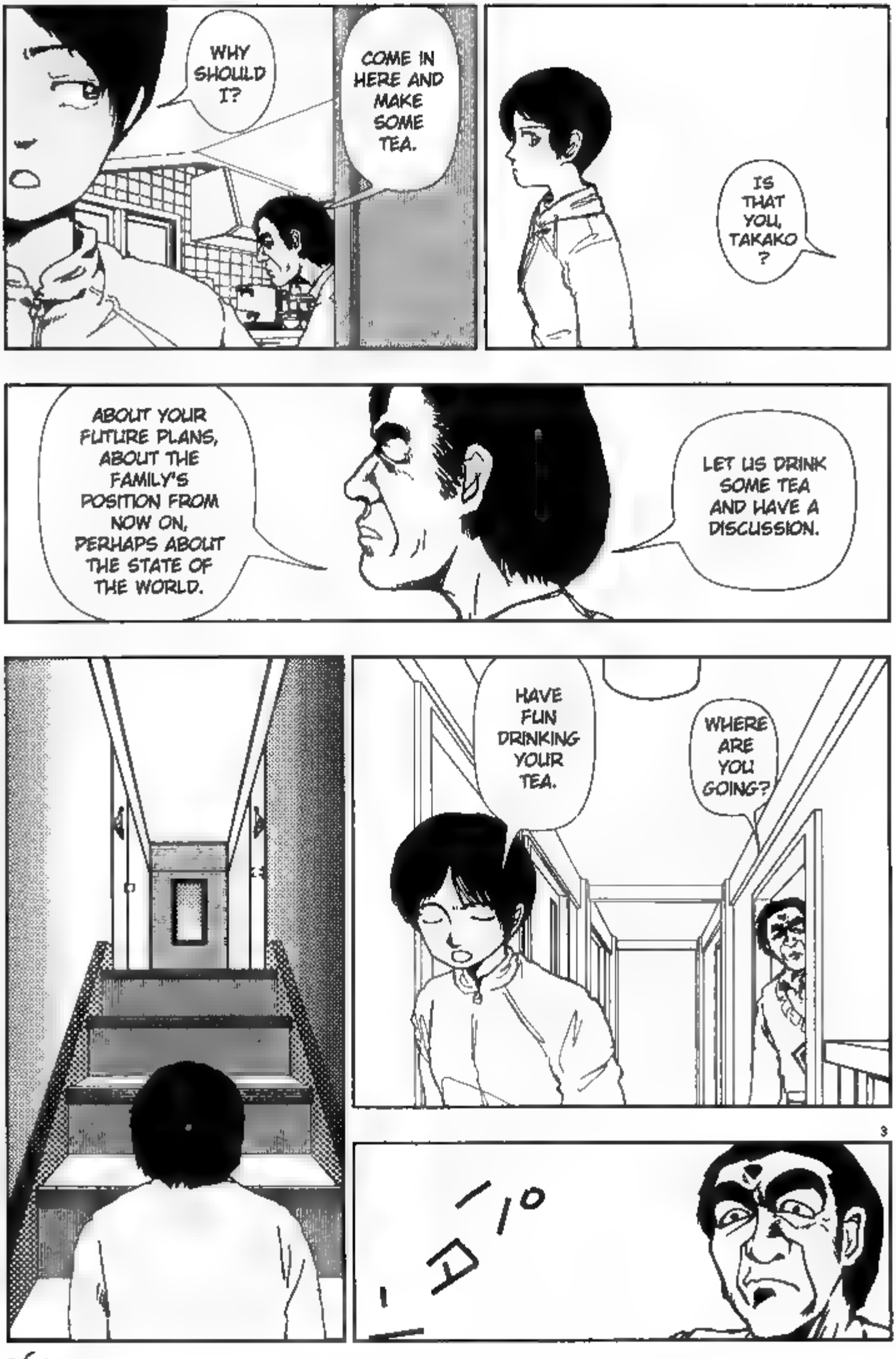

Dad got out of the hospital, and several days passed.


For now, the days go by with noth ng happening.

2

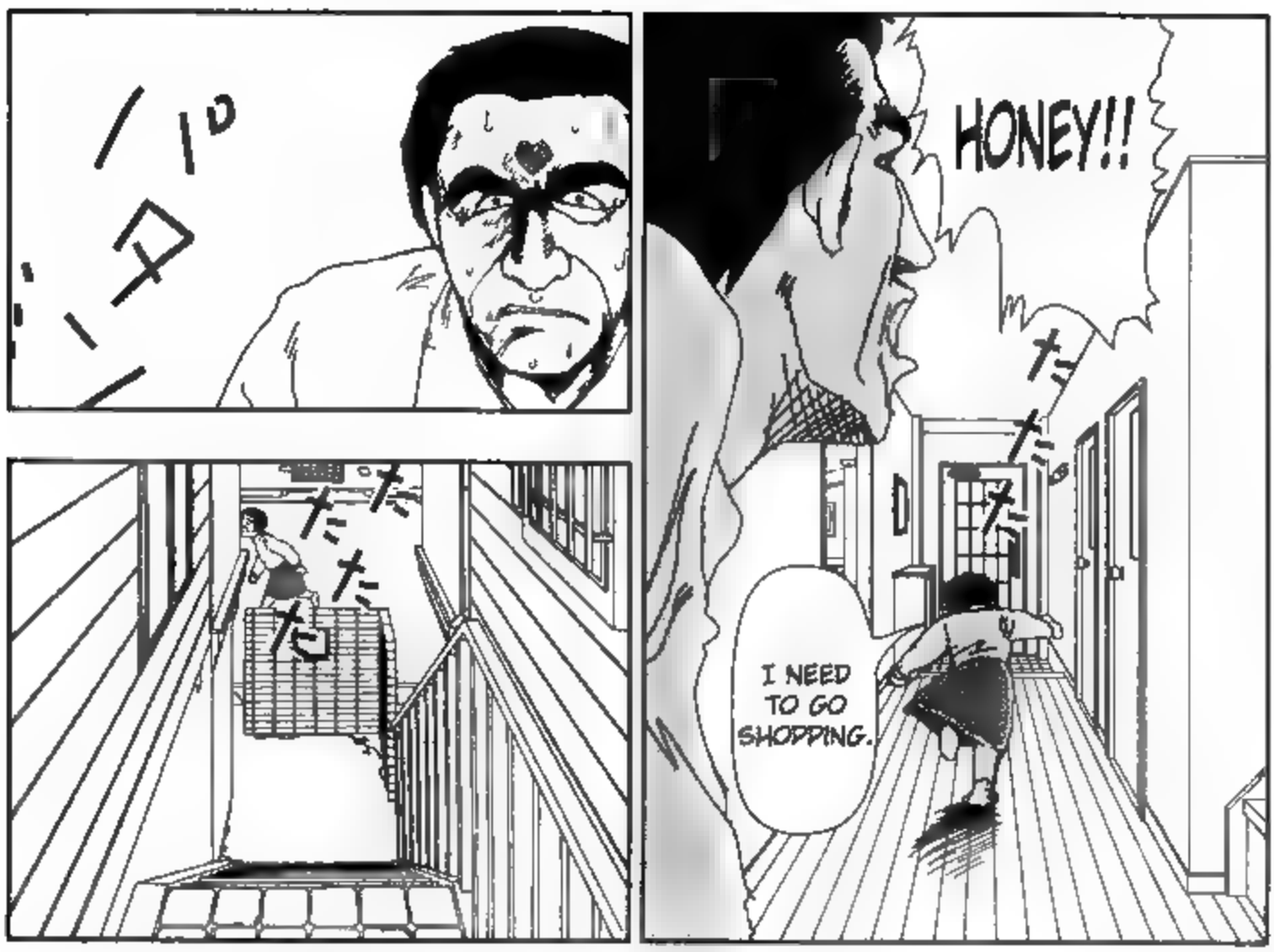

But Dad doesn't look for work. He just sits at the table, reading the newspaper.

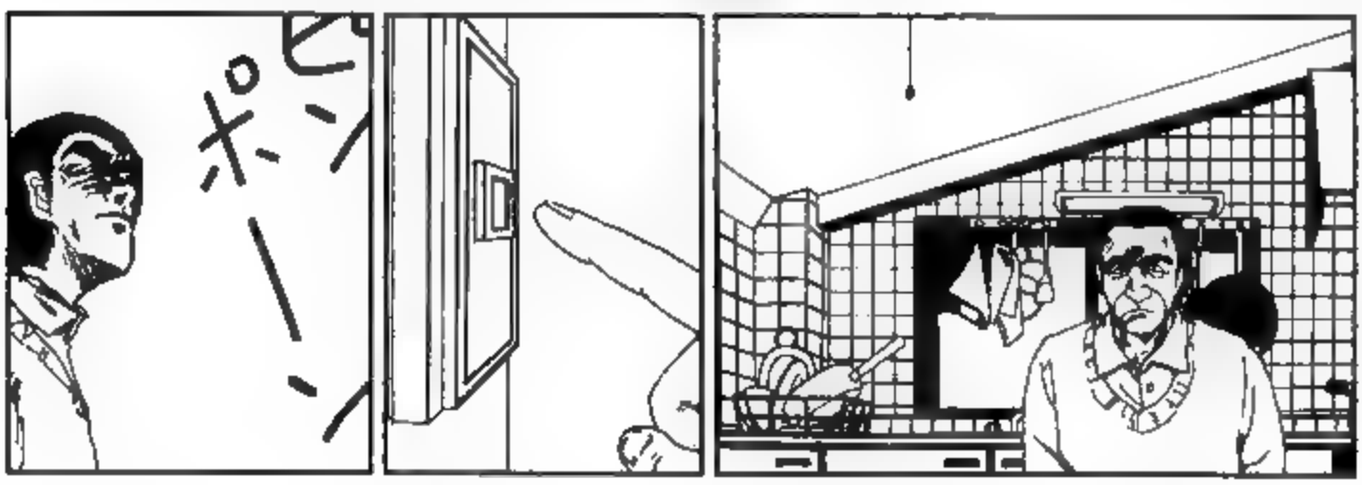
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WHY SHOULD I?
COME IN HERE AND MAKE SOME TEA.
IS THAT YOU, TAKAKO?
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS, ABOUT THE FAMILY'S POSITION FROM NOW ON, PERHAPS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WORLD.
LET US DRINK SOME TEA AND HAVE A DISCUSSION.
HAVE FUN DRINKING YOUR TEA.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
3
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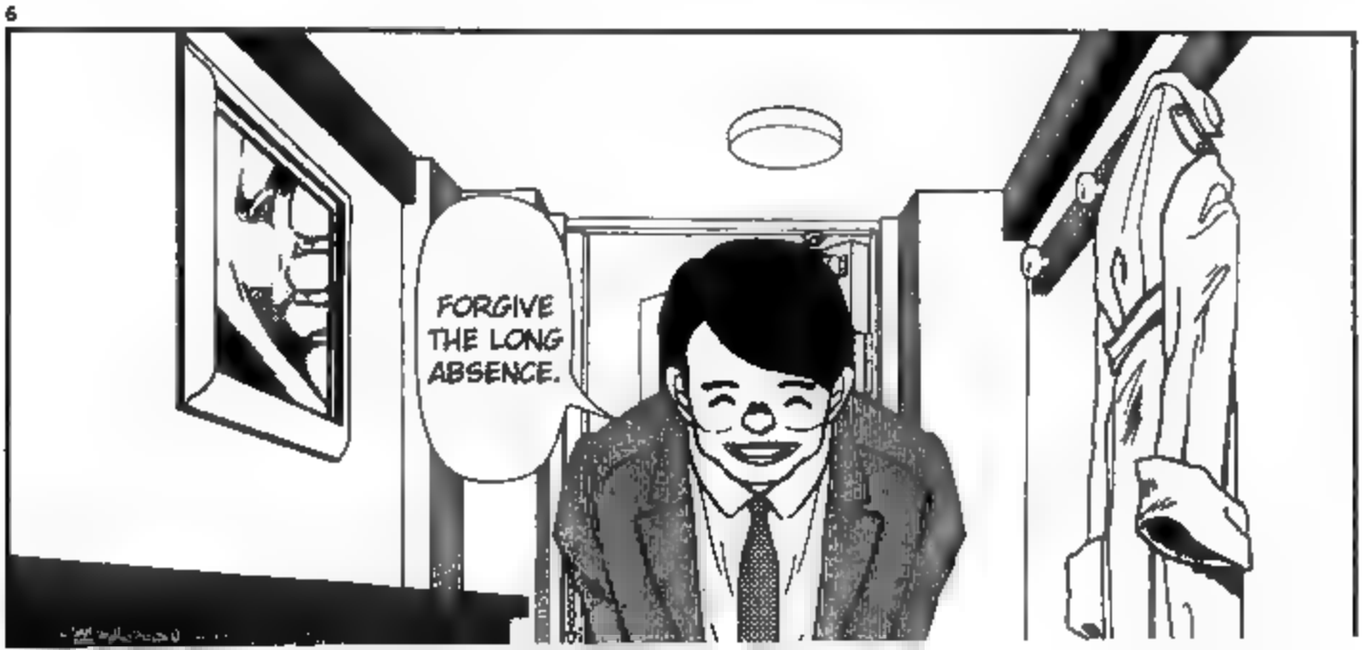

ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING WELL, SHOUKO?
YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT. DON'T RUSH, JUST TAKE IT STEADY.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE HAVING A BREAK AND DRINKING SOME TEA?
SURE, ONCE I GET A BIT FURTHER ALONG.
カチャ
APARTMENT LISTING SPECIAL
4


YES.
MOTHER, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
5
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT DID YOU JUST HIDE?! I SAW THAT! ARE YOU STARTING ANOTHER BUSINESS, DEAR?! SHOW IT TO ME!!
IT'S NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING.

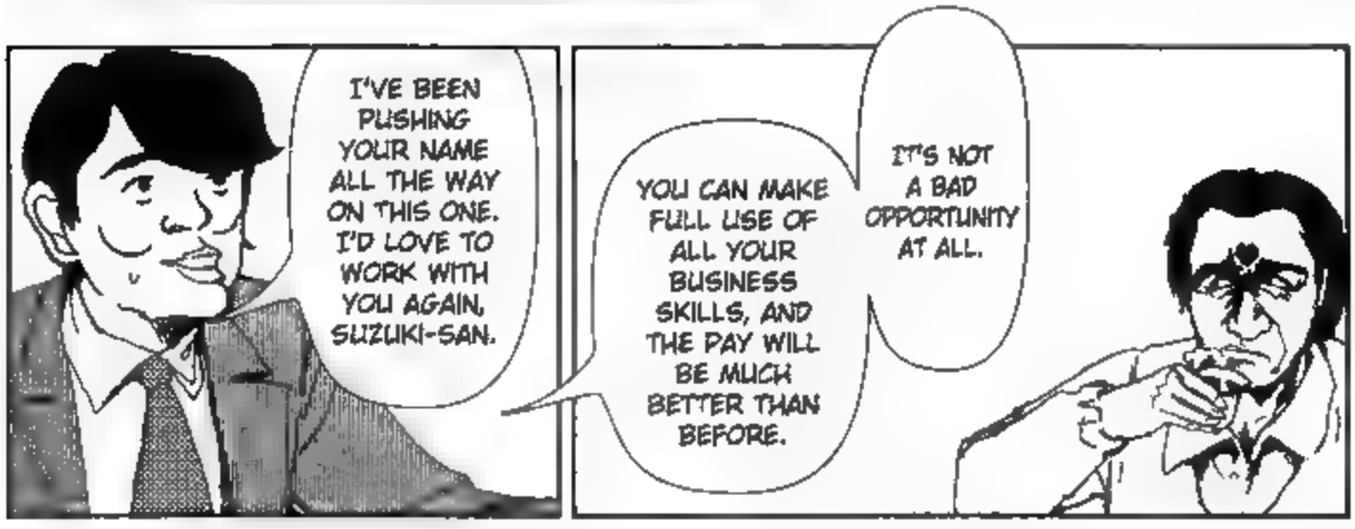




6




IF WE CAN GET THIS OIL PLANT BUILT IN IRKUTSK, IT WILL PUSH US RIGHT OUT OF OUR ECONOMIC SLUMP. AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN, TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
IF THIS PROJECT WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT WORKS OUT, IT WILL BE THE BIGGEST DEAL THIS COMPANY HAS EVER TAKEN PART IN.
LEAVING ?
HUH? AGAIN?


I'VE BEEN PUSHING YOUR NAME ALL THE WAY ON THIS ONE. I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN, SUZUKI-SAN.
YOU CAN MAKE FULL USE OF ALL YOUR BUSINESS SKILLS, AND THE PAY WILL BE MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE.
IT'S NOT A BAD OPPORTUNITY AT ALL.

7


WELL ... THAT'S HOW IT GOES ...
BUSINESSES ARE SUCH SELFISH THINGS. THEY FIRE YOU WHEN THEY DON'T NEED YOU, THEN WHEN THEY DO, THEY COME BACK AND ASK YOU TO FLY TO RUSSIA.

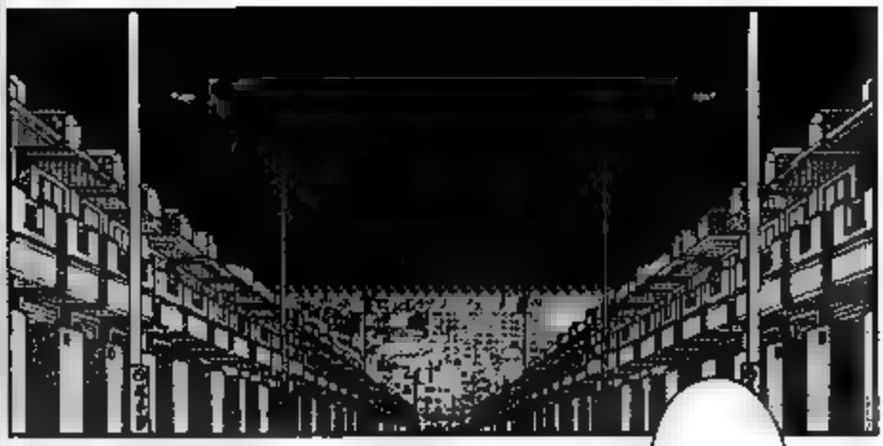

...HOW LONG WILL IT BE?
THIS TIME ...
LET'S WORK TOGETHER AGAIN, SUZUKI-SAN. SIDE BY SIDE.
JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS...

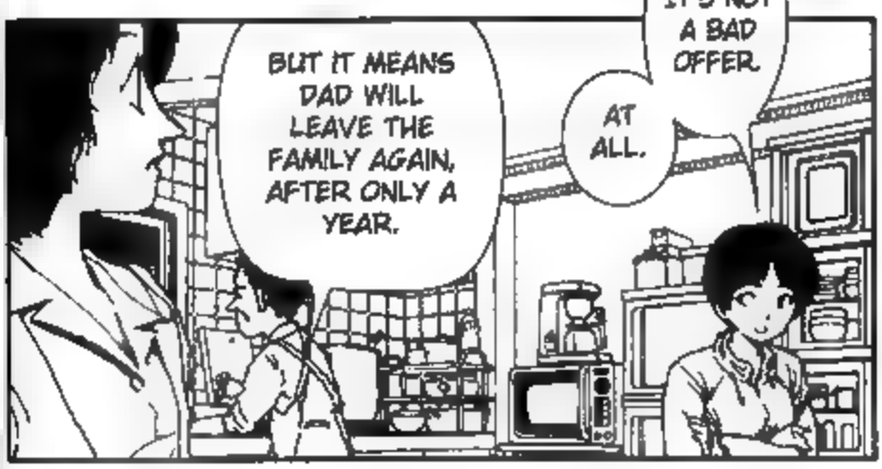

5 YEARS...
AH, WELL... YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE IN IRKUTSK FOR AT LEAST, UH...

8

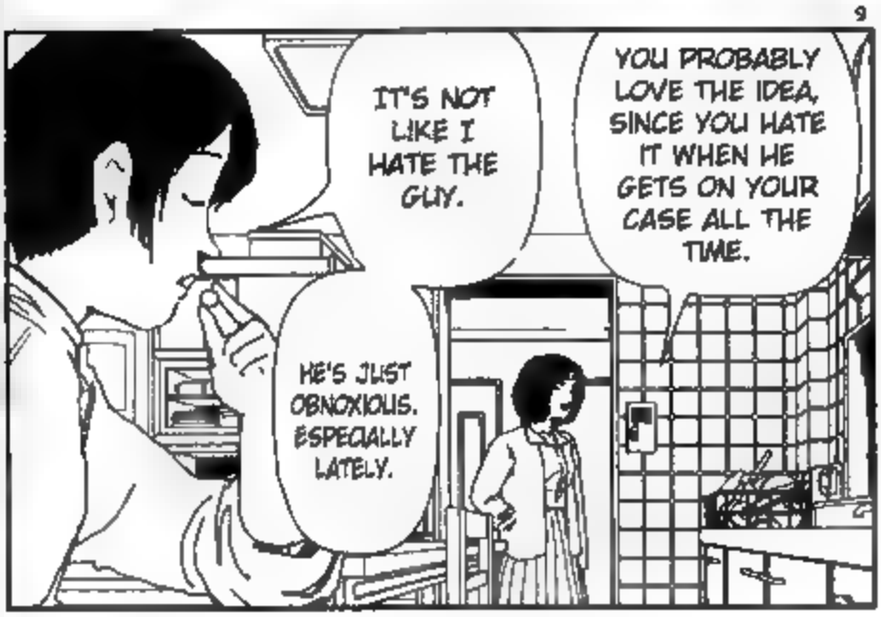


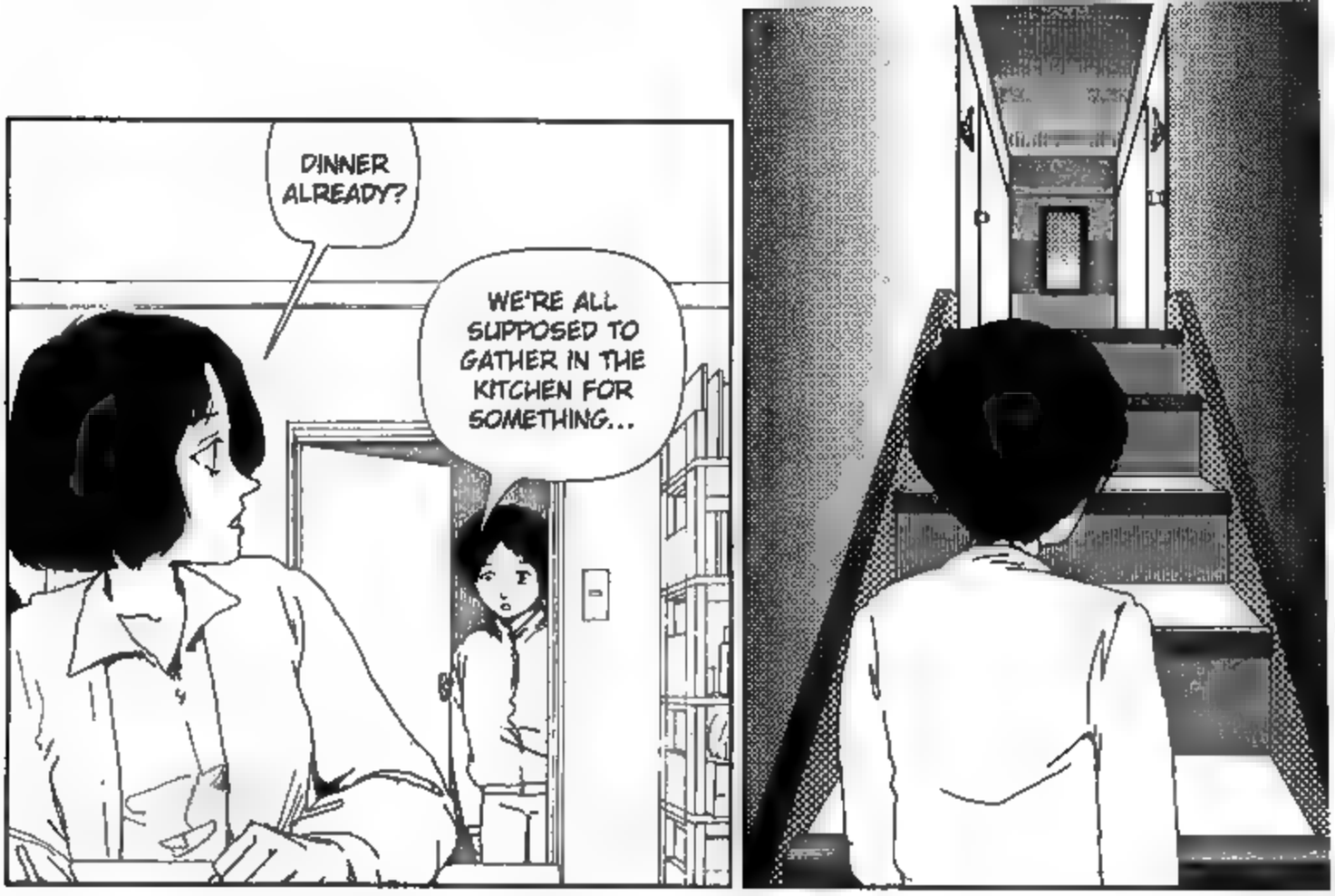


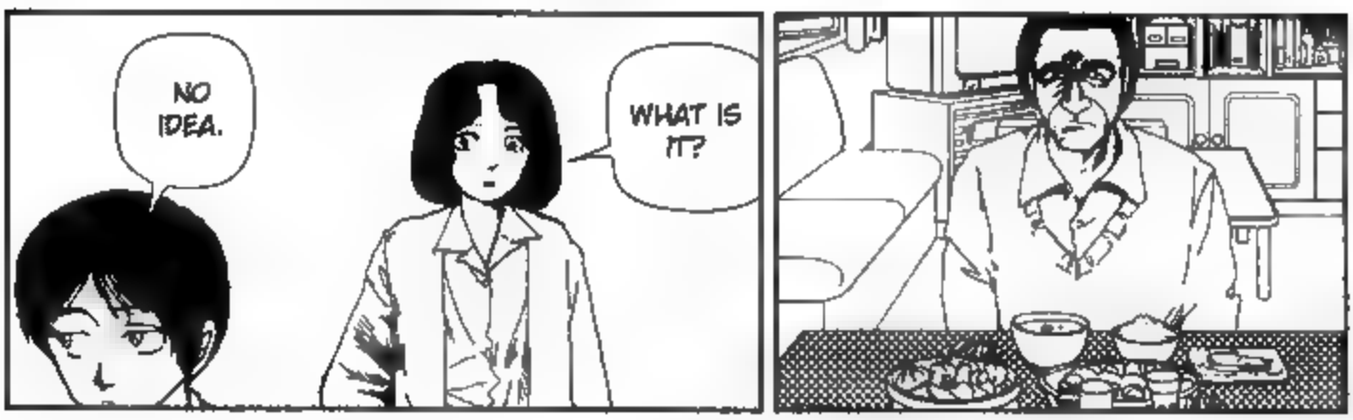



IT'S NOT A BAD OFFER.
AT ALL.
BUT IT MEANS DAD WILL LEAVE THE FAMILY AGAIN, AFTER ONLY A YEAR.




YOU PROBABLY LOVE THE IDEA, SINCE YOU HATE IT WHEN HE GETS ON YOUR CASE ALL THE TIME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE THE GUY.
HE'S JUST OBNOXIOUS. ESPECIALLY LATELY.


DINNER ALREADY?
WE'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO GATHER IN THE KITCHEN FOR SOMETHING...


NO IDEA.
WHAT IS IT?

10


JUST TAKE A SEAT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

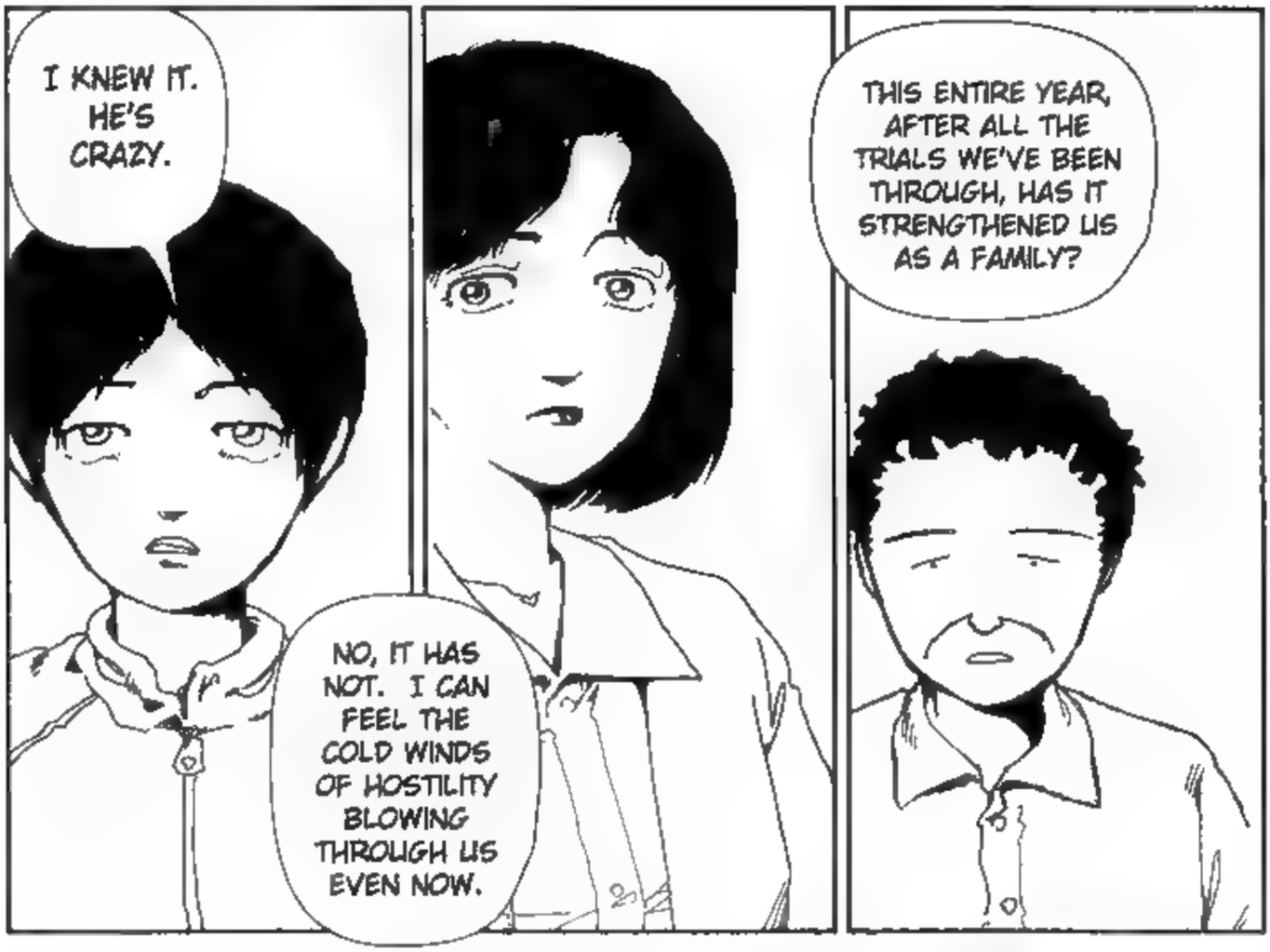

HOW HARD IS IT TO SEE THAT?
IS EVERY ONE IN THEIR PLACES?


FOR THE YEAR I'VE BEEN BACK, A LOT HAS HAPPENED. I'VE HAD MY MIND ON A LOT OF THINGS THROUGH ALL OF THIS.
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY IS VERY IMPORTANT, SO I WANT YOU TO LISTEN GOOD.

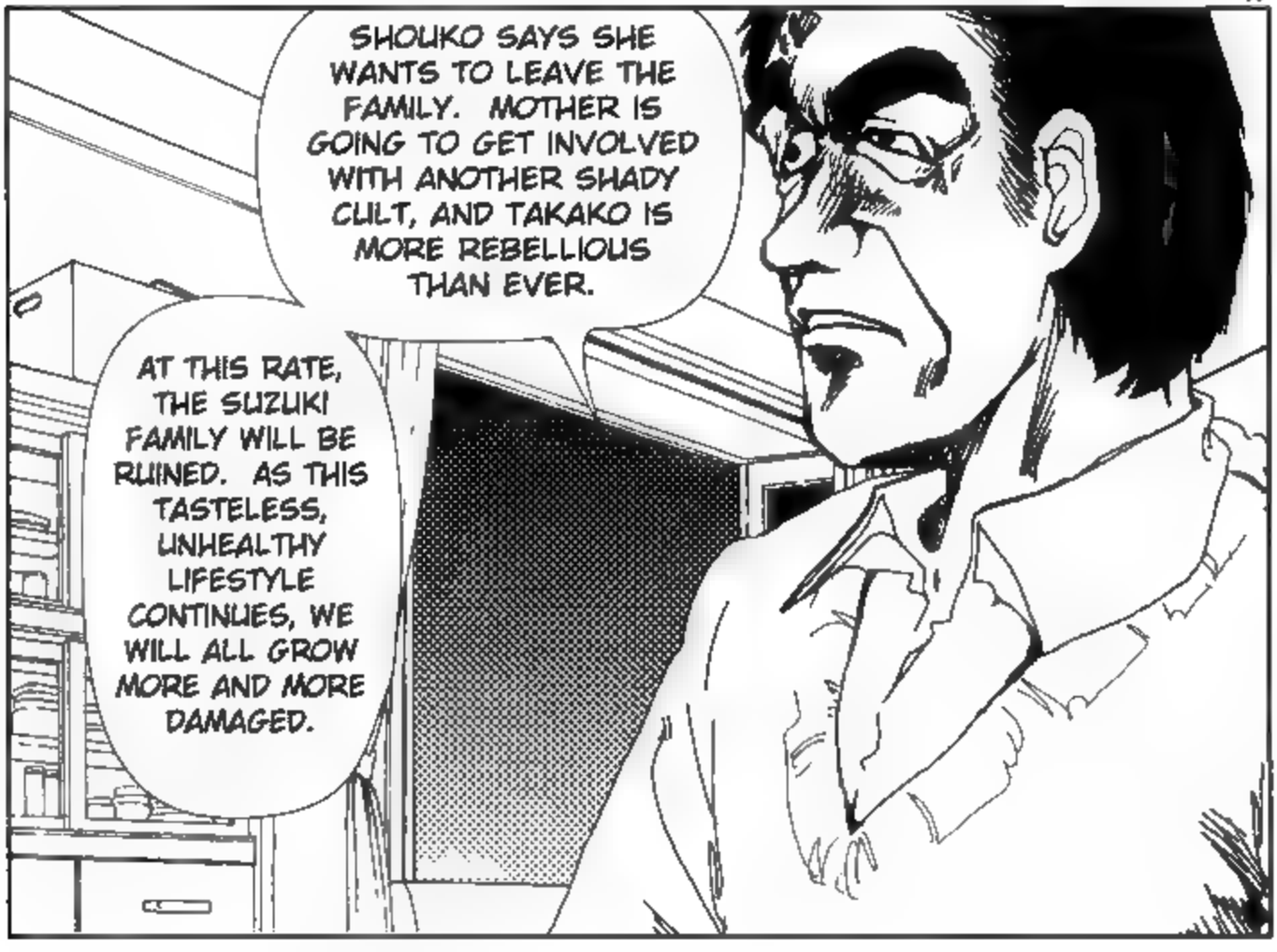

COULD YOU GET TO THE POINT, ALREADY?
THAT IS... IN OTHER WORDS...
AND NOW... THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO MAKE A DECISION.

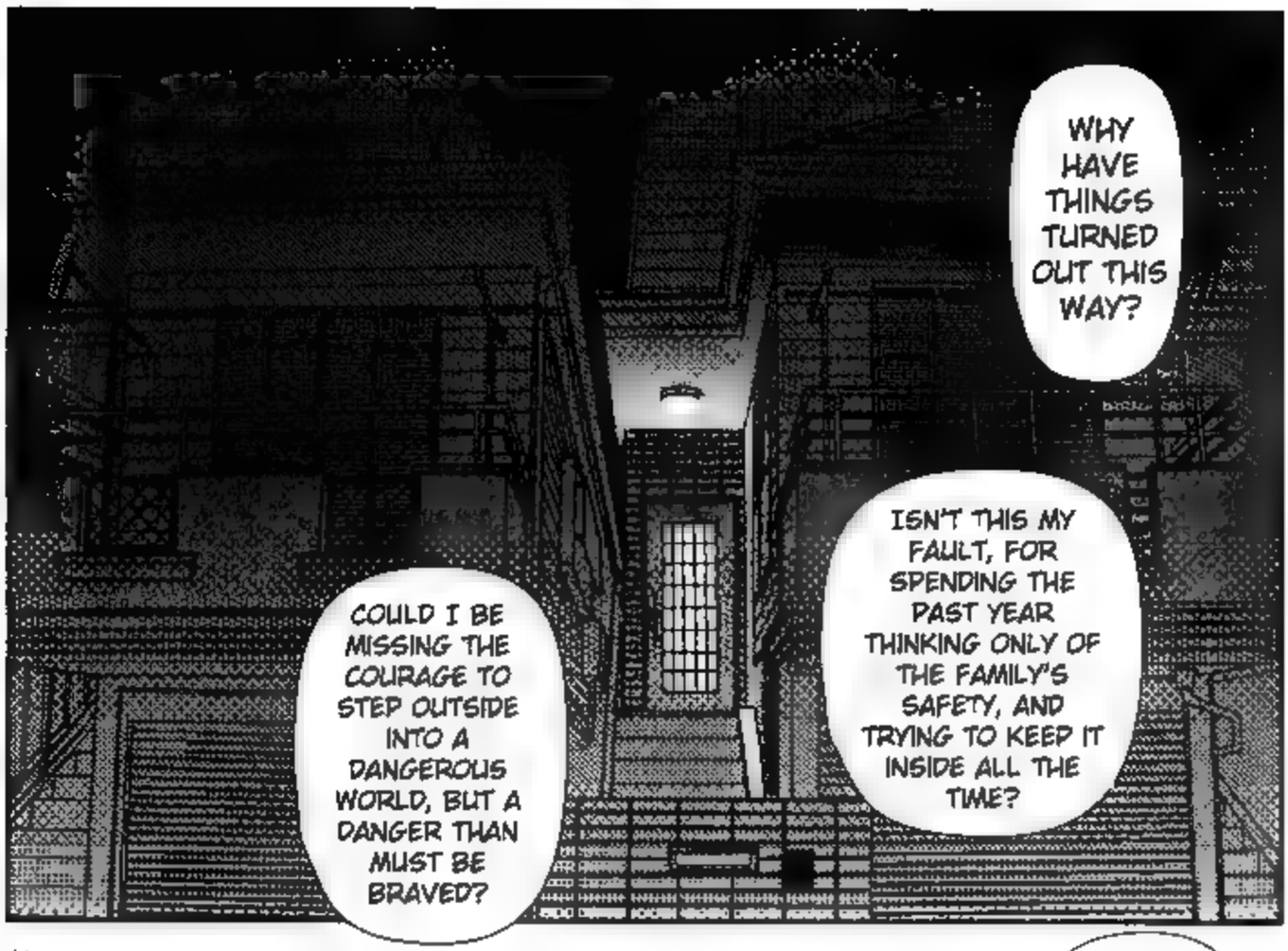


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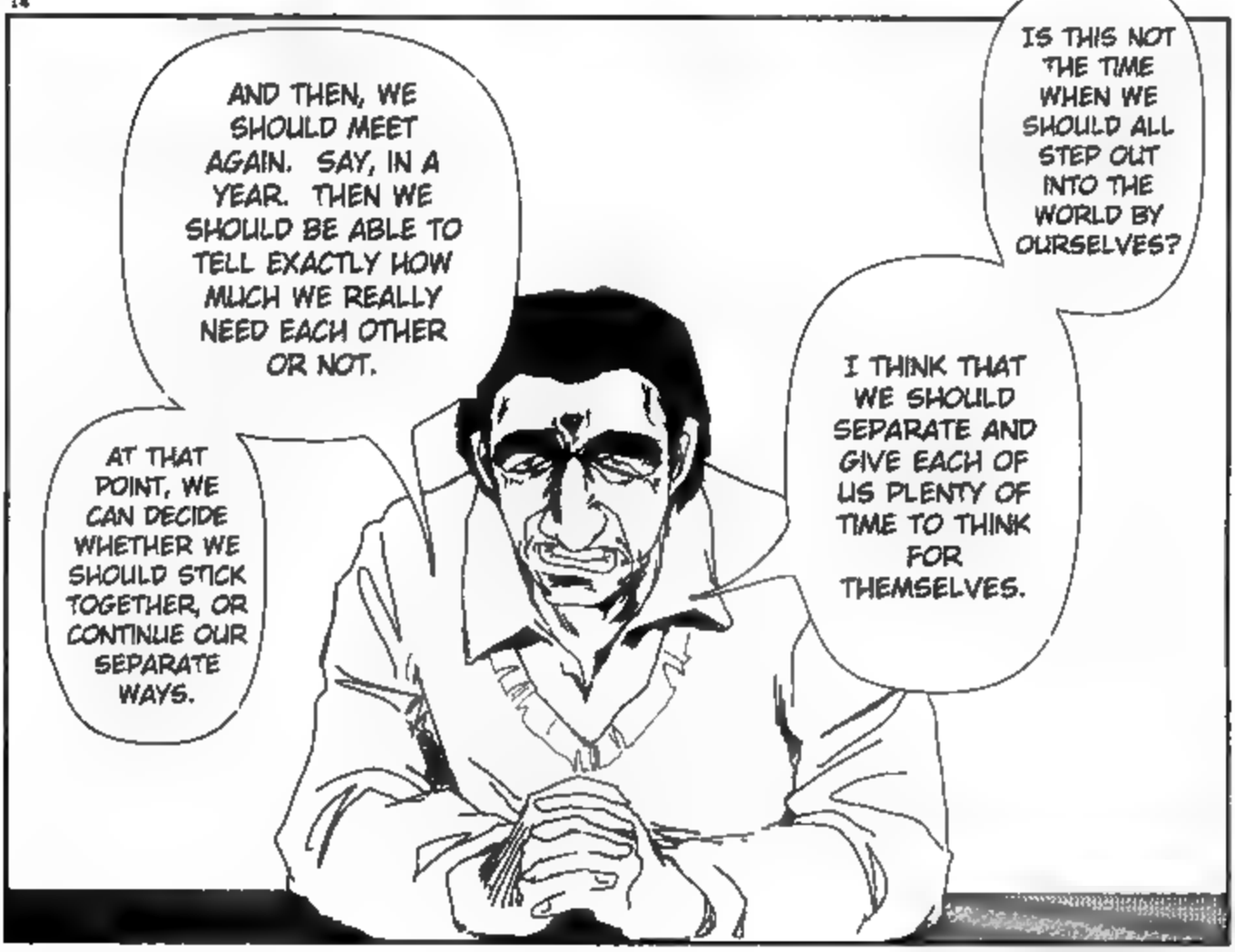

I KNEW IT. HE'S CRAZY.
NO, IT HAS NOT. I CAN FEEL THE COLD WINDS OF HOSTILITY BLOWING THROUGH US EVEN NOW.
THIS ENTIRE YEAR, AFTER ALL THE TRIALS WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, HAS IT STRENGTHENED US AS A FAMILY?

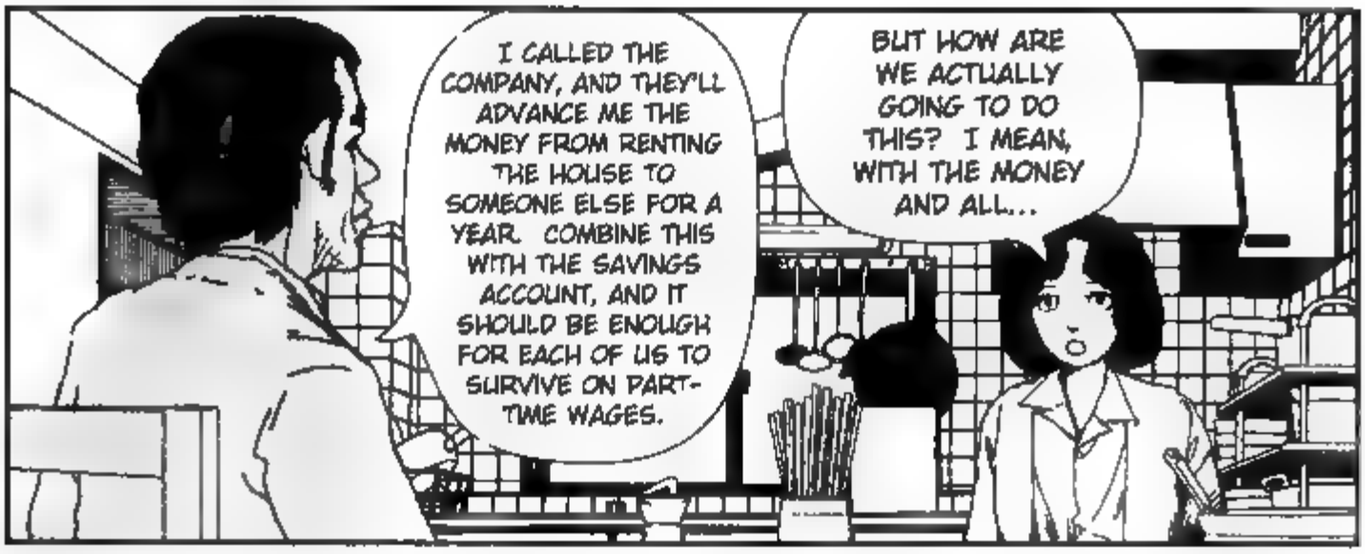
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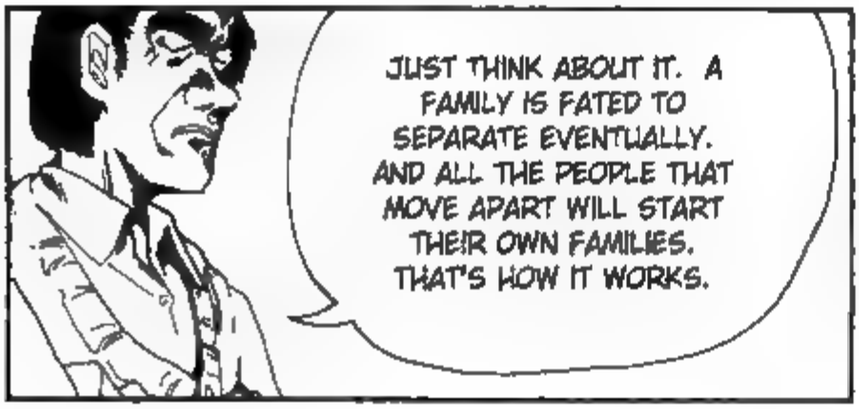

SHOUKO SAYS SHE WANTS TO LEAVE THE FAMILY. MOTHER IS GOING TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANOTHER SHADY CULT, AND TAKAKO IS MORE REBELLIOUS THAN EVER.
AT THIS RATE, THE SUZUKI FAMILY WILL BE RUINED. AS THIS TASTELESS, UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONTINUES, WE WILL ALL GROW MORE AND MORE DAMAGED.


WHY HAVE THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY?
ISN'T THIS MY FAULT, FOR SPENDING THE PAST YEAR THINKING ONLY OF THE FAMILY'S SAFETY, AND TRYING TO KEEP IT INSIDE ALL THE TIME?
COULD I BE MISSING THE COURAGE TO STEP OUTSIDE INTO A DANGEROUS WORLD, BUT A DANGER THAN MUST BE BRAVED?

14


IS THIS NOT THE TIME WHEN WE SHOULD ALL STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD BY OURSELVES?
I THINK THAT WE SHOULD SEPARATE AND GIVE EACH OF US PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES.
AND THEN, WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN. SAY, IN A YEAR. THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL EXACTLY HOW MUCH WE REALLY NEED EACH OTHER OR NOT.
AT THAT POINT, WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER, OR CONTINUE OUR SEPARATE WAYS.


I CALLED THE COMPANY, AND THEY'LL ADVANCE ME THE MONEY FROM RENTING THE HOUSE TO SOMEONE ELSE FOR A YEAR. COMBINE THIS WITH THE SAVINGS ACCOUNT, AND IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR EACH OF US TO SURVIVE ON PART-TIME WAGES.
BUT HOW ARE WE ACTUALLY GOING TO DO THIS? I MEAN, WITH THE MONEY AND ALL...


JUST THINK ABOUT IT. A FAMILY IS FATED TO SEPARATE EVENTUALLY. AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT MOVE APART WILL START THEIR OWN FAMILIES. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.

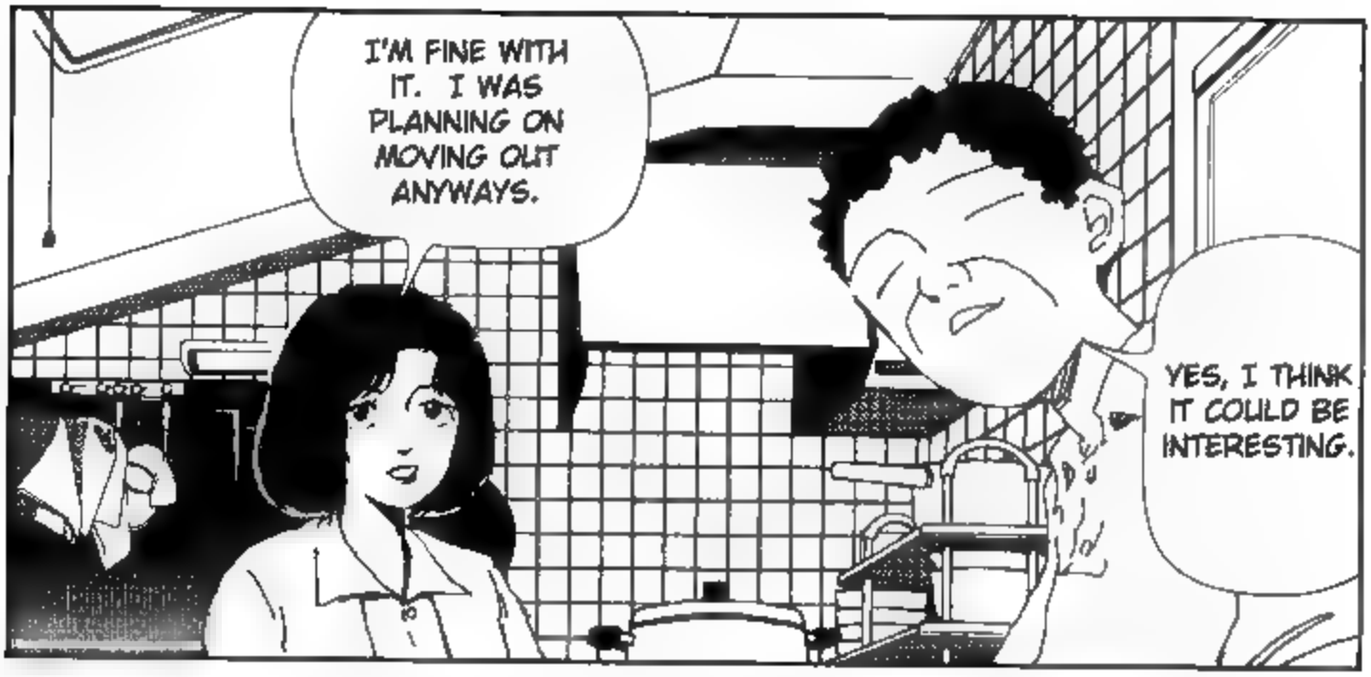



SOUNDS FINE TO ME.

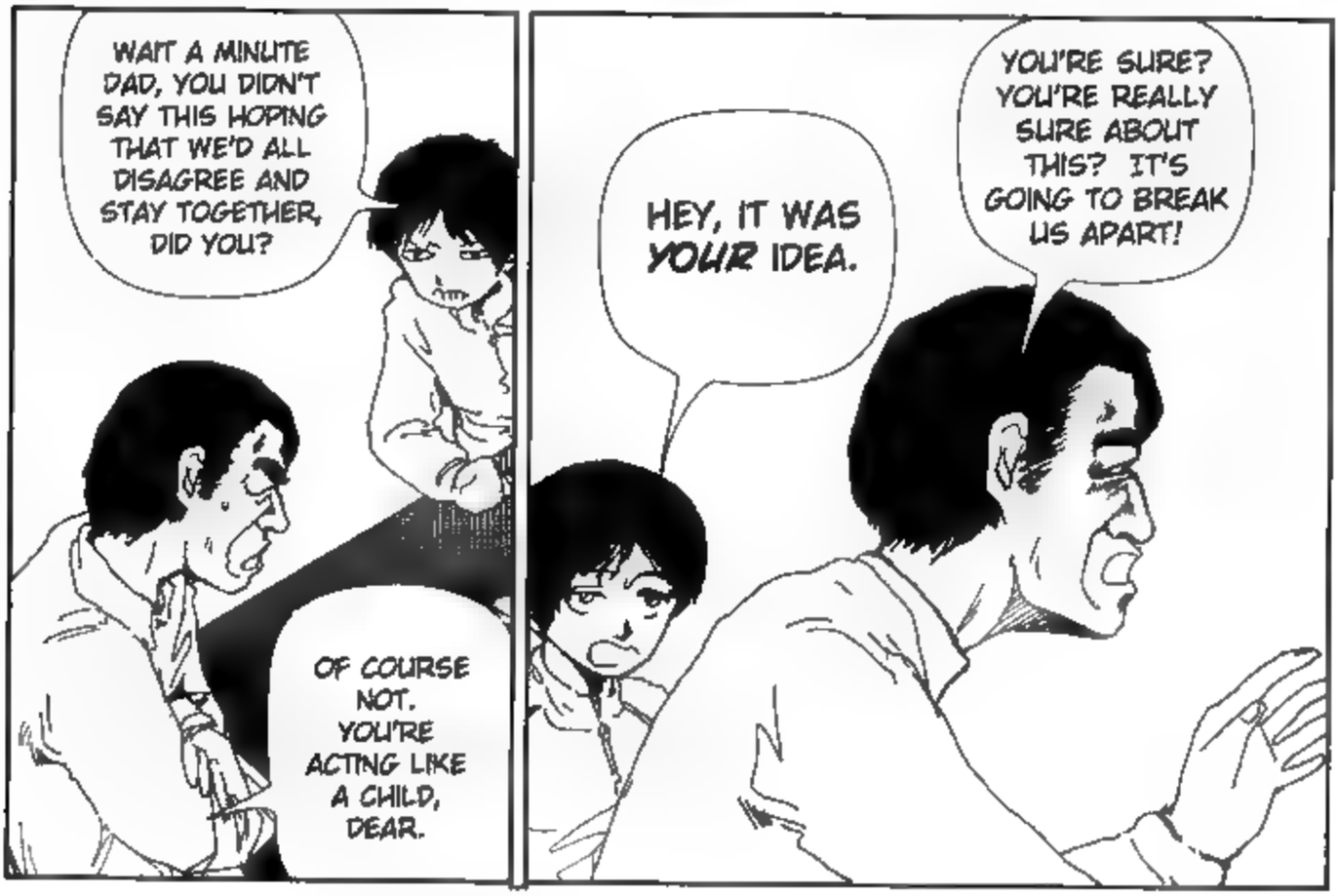
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THE FIRST INTELLIGENT THING I'VE HEARD YOU SAY.
YOUR REASONING'S KIND OF CRAZY, BUT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

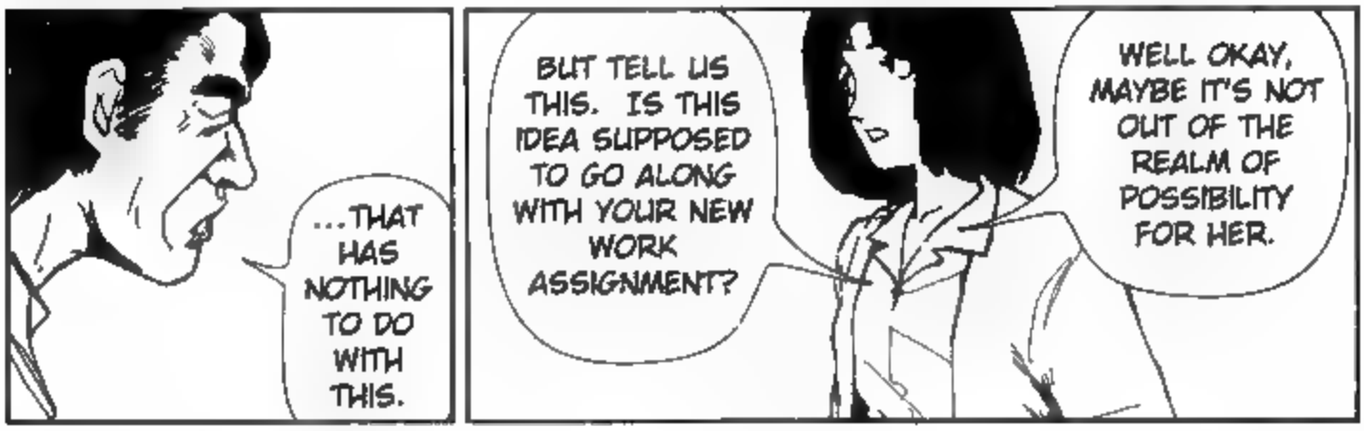

...SO YOU'LL AGREE TO IT.

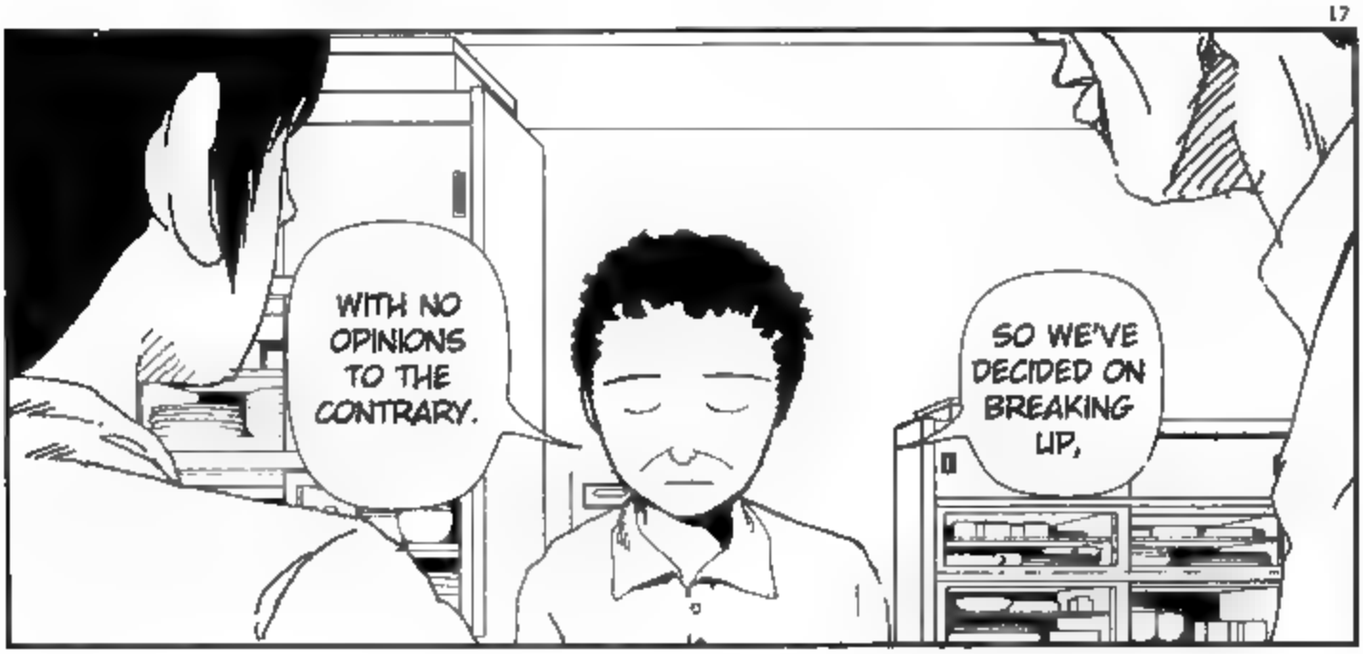

I'M FINE WITH IT. I WAS PLANNING ON MOVING OUT ANYWAYS.
YES, I THINK IT COULD BE INTERESTING.




WAIT A MINUTE DAD, YOU DIDN'T SAY THIS HOPING THAT WE'D ALL DISAGREE AND STAY TOGETHER, DID YOU?
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A CHILD, DEAR.
HEY, IT WAS *YOUR* IDEA.
YOU'RE SURE? YOU'RE REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS? IT'S GOING TO BREAK US APART!

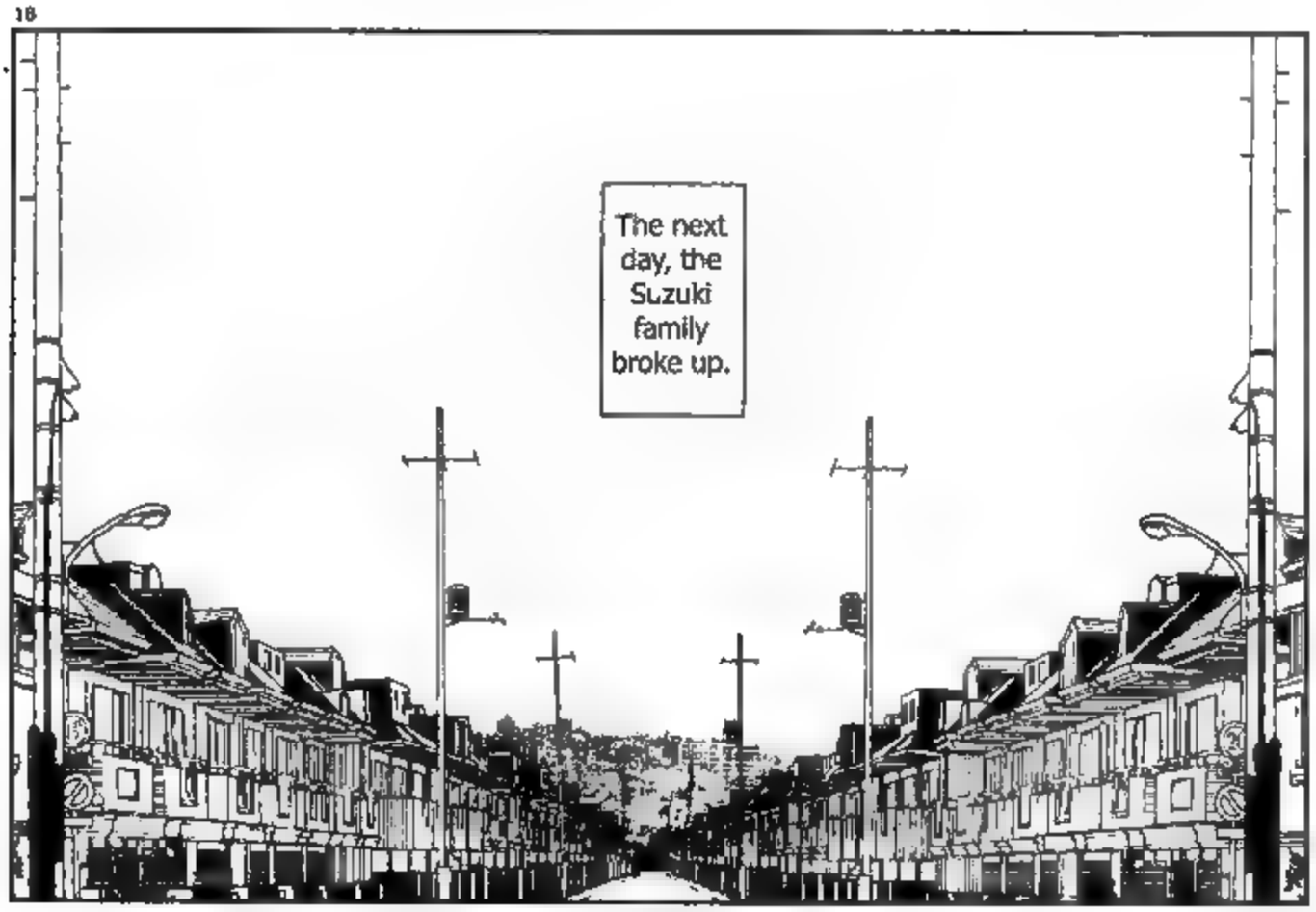

NO WAY, NO WAY, NEVER!! I COULD LIVE WITH SHOUKO MAYBE, BUT NOT DAD!!
TAKAKO CAN'T MANAGE ON HER OWN. SHE'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH ME.
WHAAAA AAT?!
BUT THAT MEANS TAKA-CHAN HAS TO LIVE BY HERSELF. SHE'S ONLY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.


...THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
BUT TELL US THIS. IS THIS IDEA SUPPOSED TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR NEW WORK ASSIGNMENT?
WELL OKAY, MAYBE IT'S NOT OUT OF THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY FOR HER.


17
WITH NO OPINIONS TO THE CONTRARY.
SO WE'VE DECIDED ON BREAKING UP,


THEN IT'S DECIDED.
For the first time, we were all on the same page.
YOU'RE ALL SURE ABOUT THIS.

18

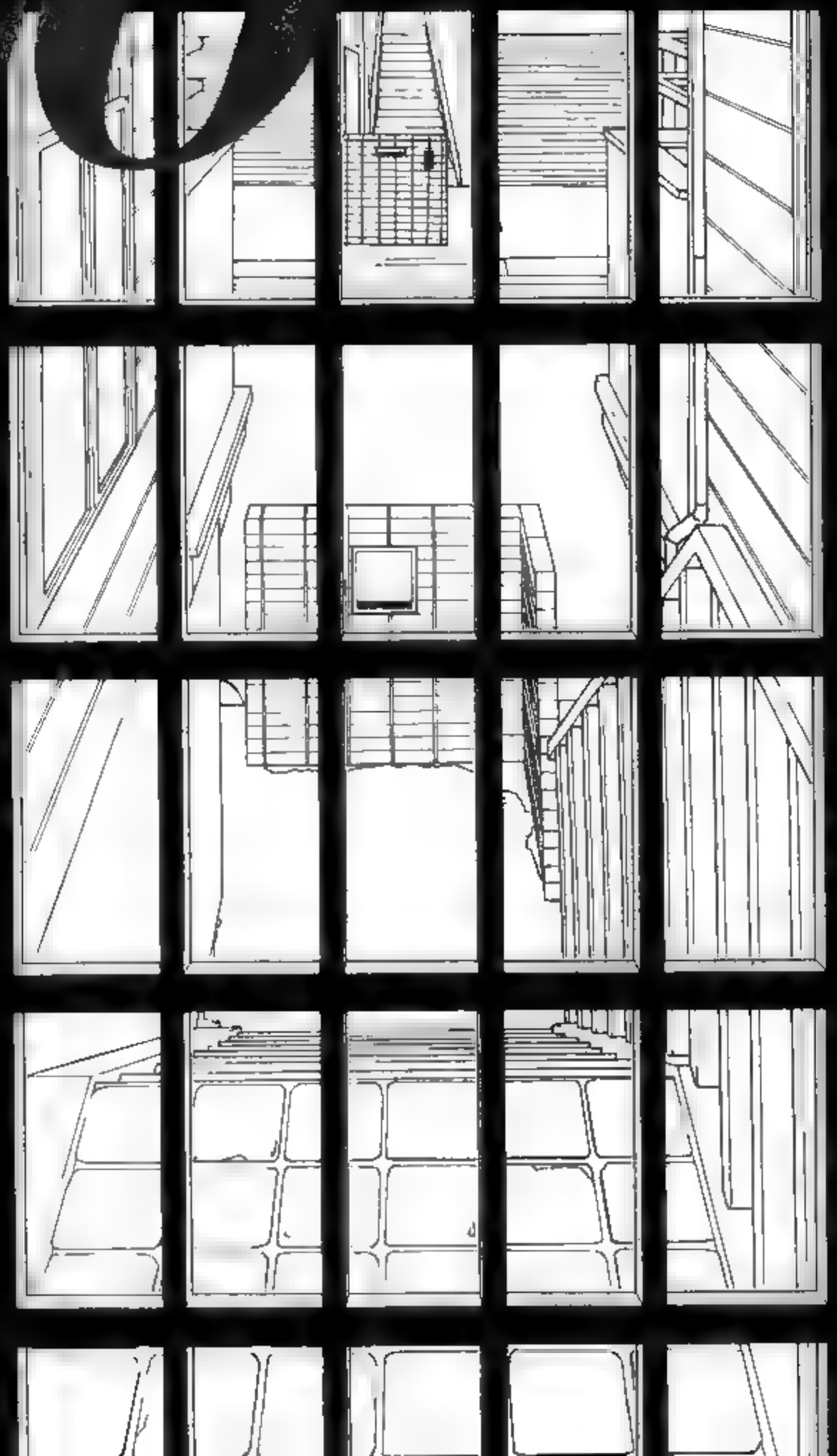

The next day, the Suzuki family broke up.

BREAK UP

TRANSLATED BY
STEPHEN PAUL

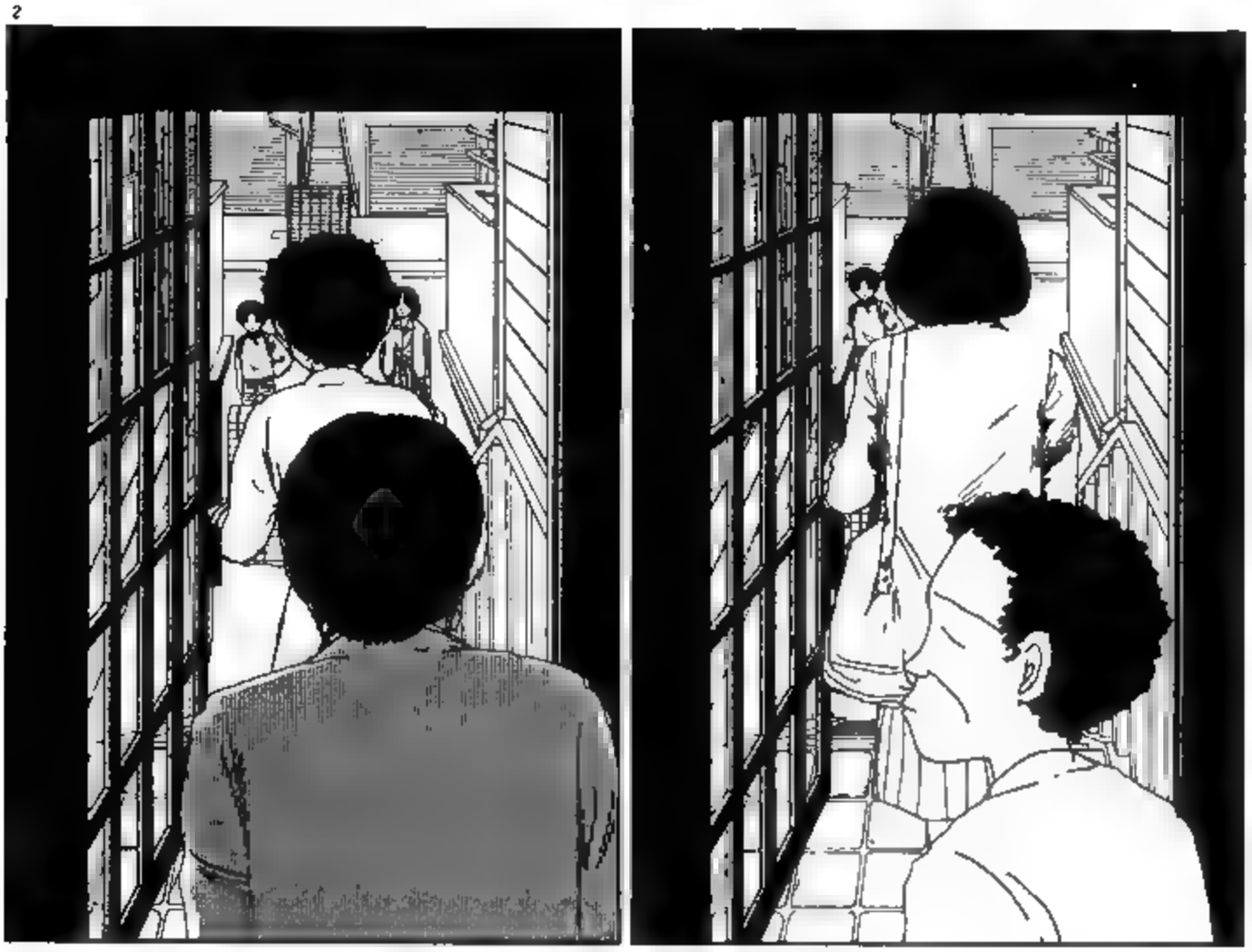
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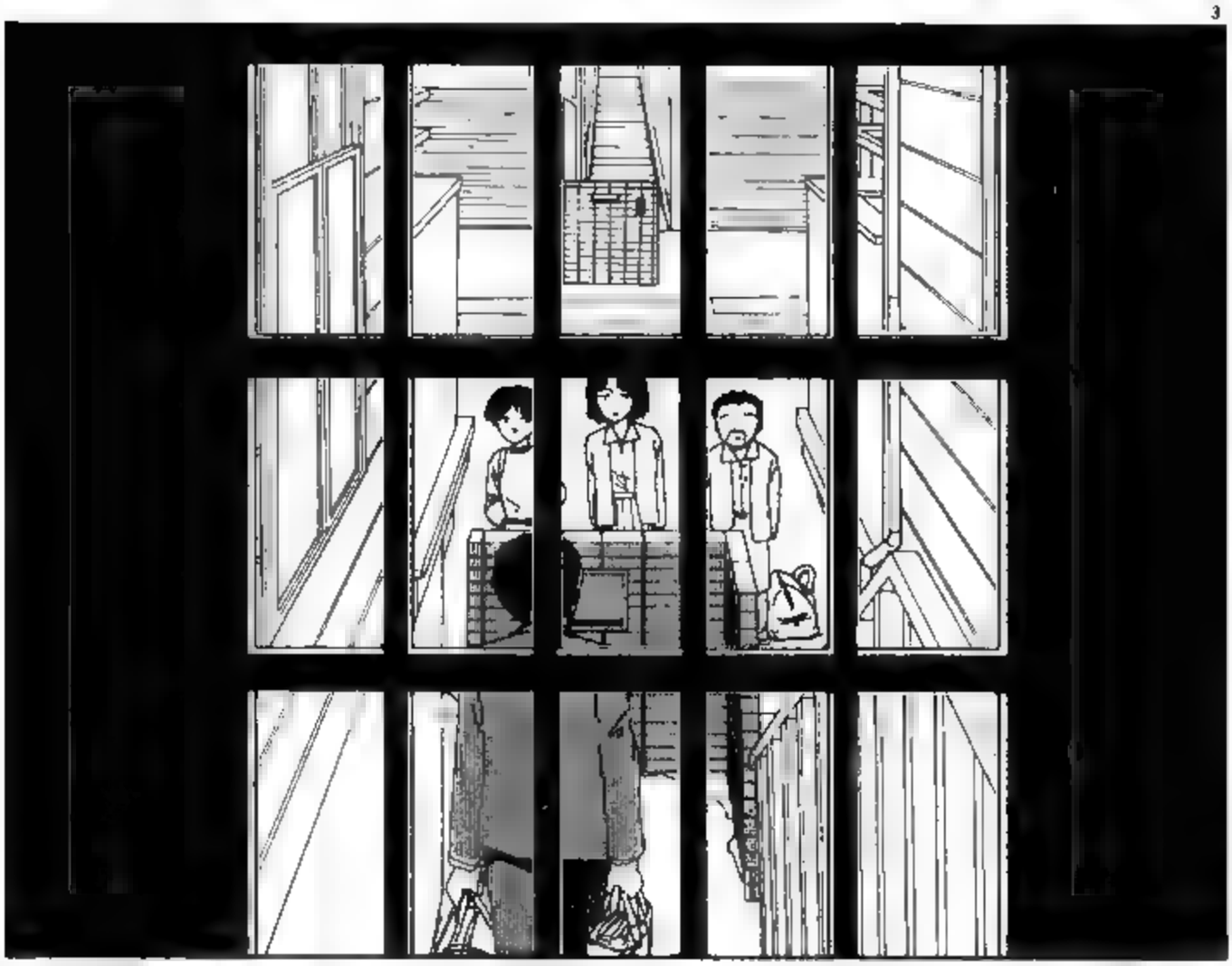


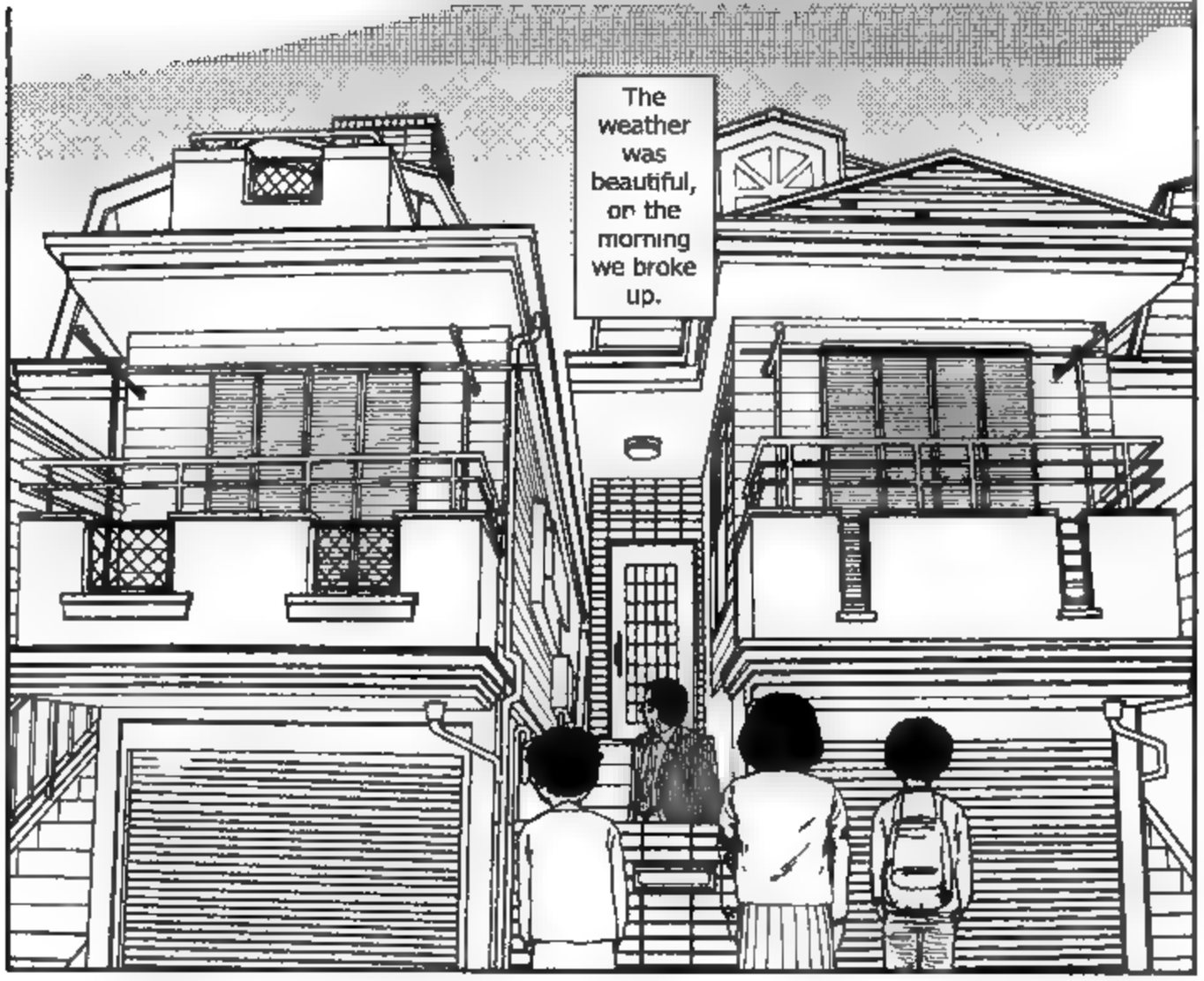
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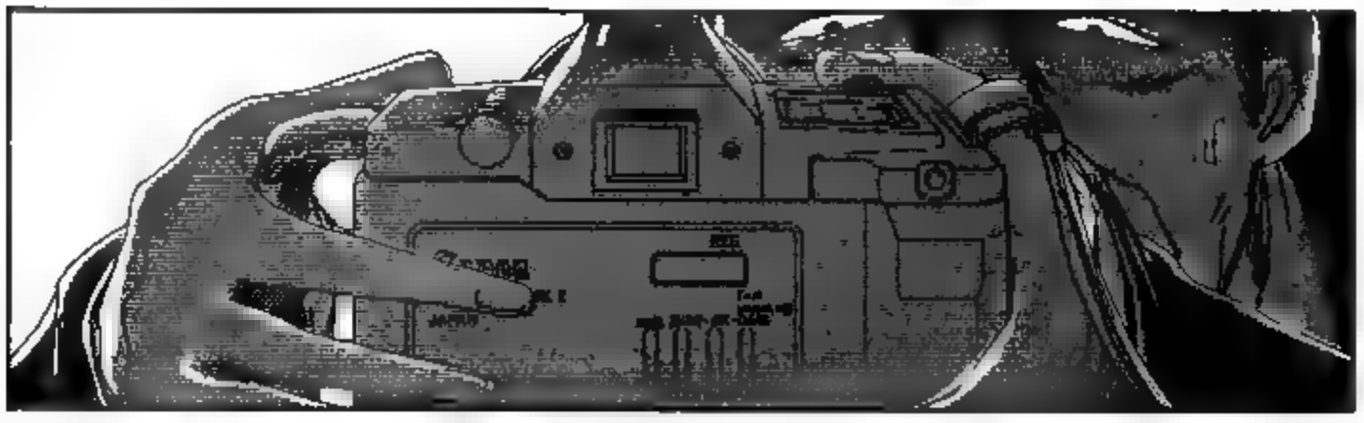


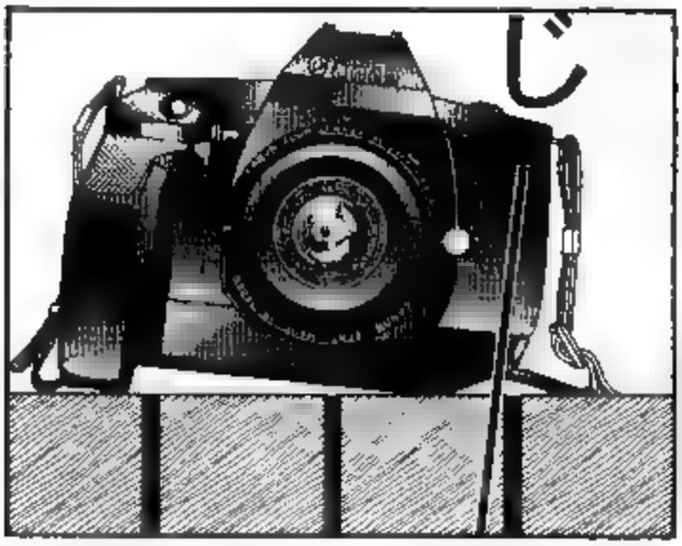


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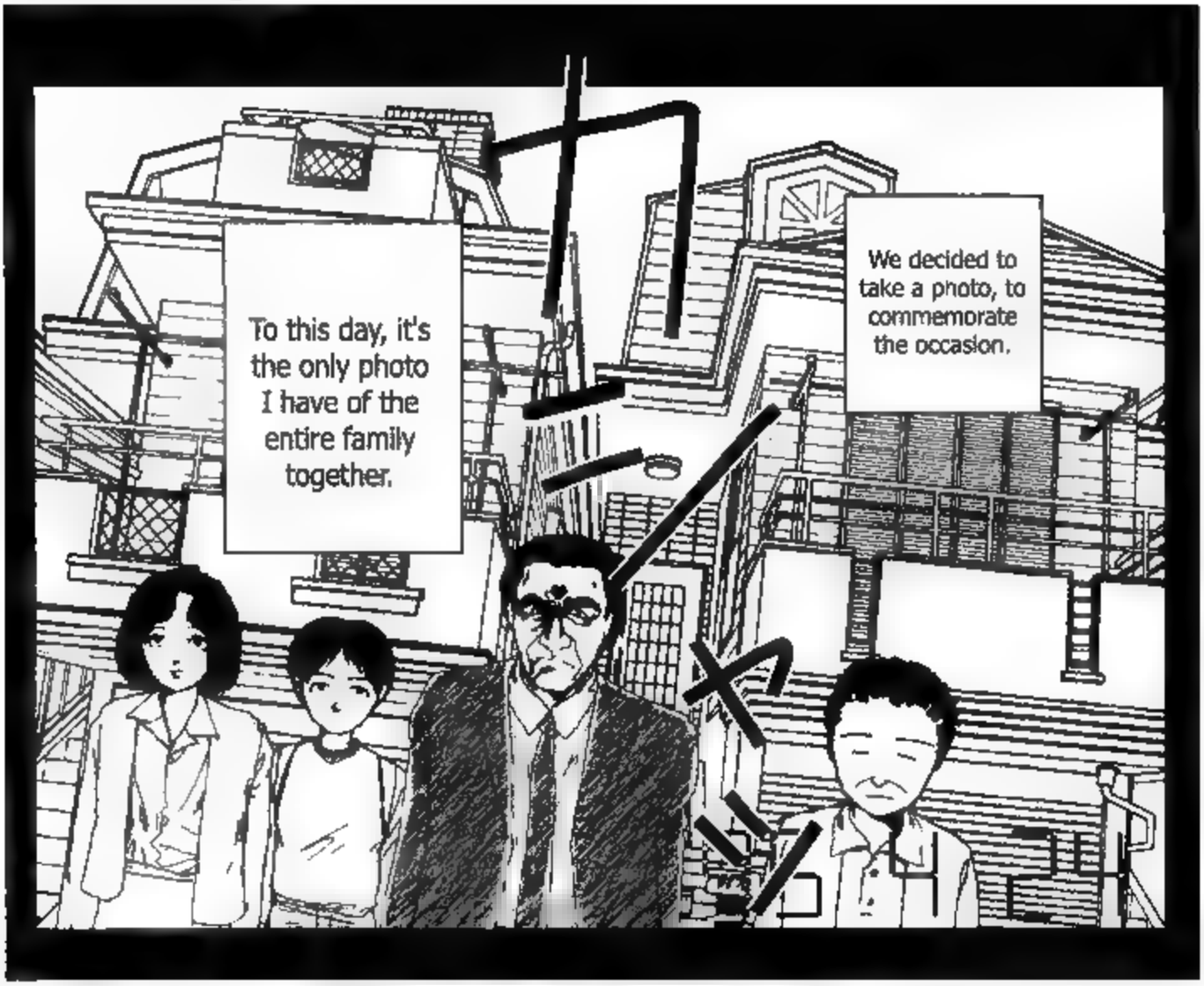


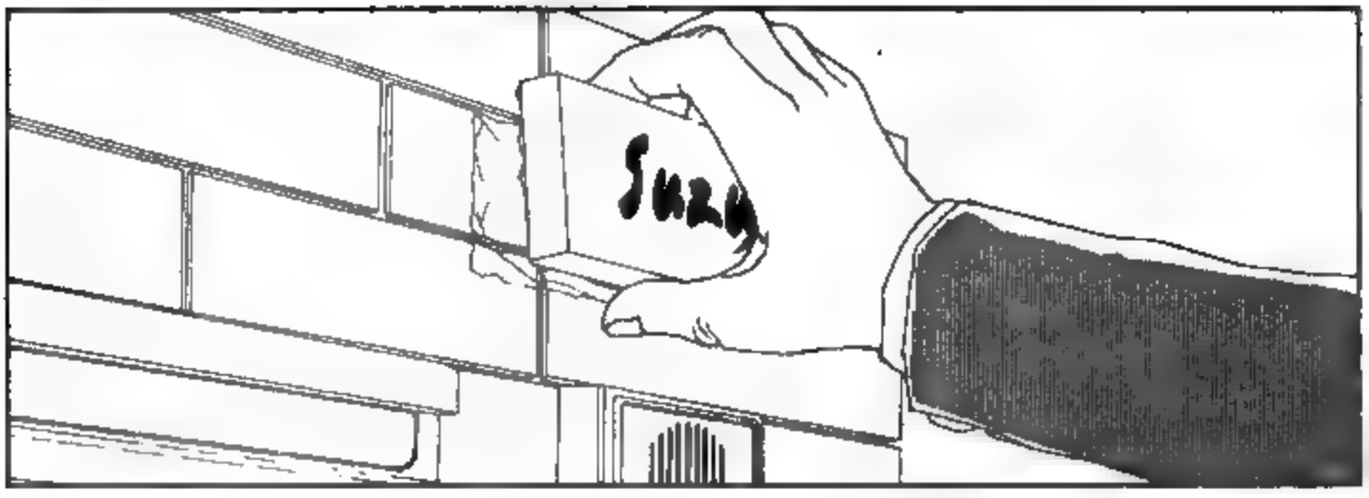

The weather was beautiful, on the morning we broke up.






COME ON, HURRY.


To this day, it's the only photo I have of the entire family together.
We decided to take a photo, to commemorate the occasion.


SUZU

5


FOR IT BEING YOUR IDEA, YOU SURE ARE THE MOST HESITANT ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS, THEN.

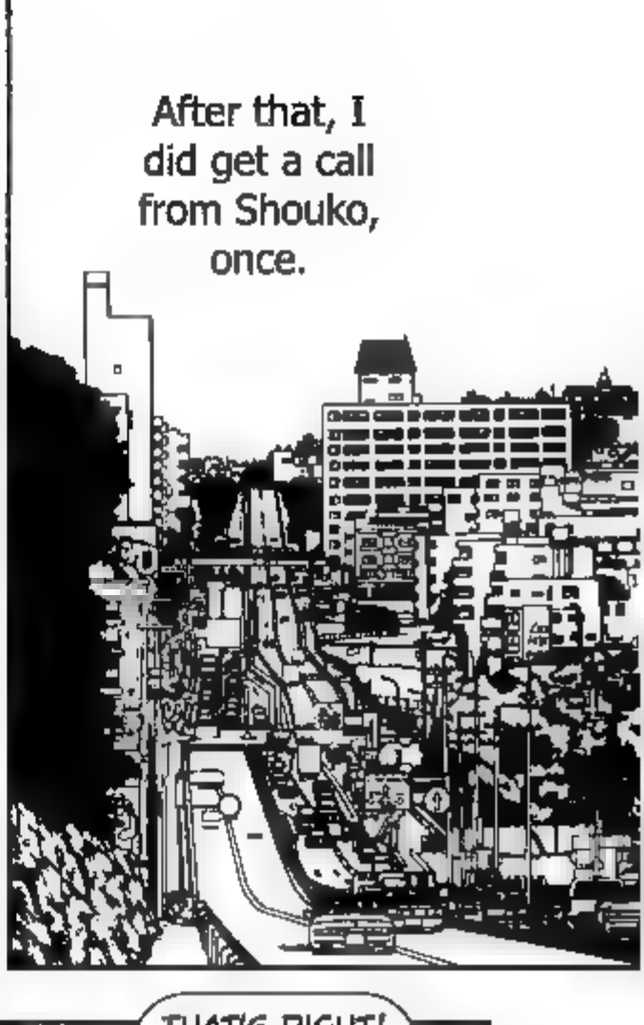

THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME, THAT'S ALL.
OH.
WE'LL MEET HERE AGAIN, AT THIS TIME, IN ONE YEAR.
AND IF WE DON'T WANT TO?
WELL THEN, THIS IS GOODBYE.

6


G'BYE.
STAY WELL, EVERY ONE.
BYE.
BYE.

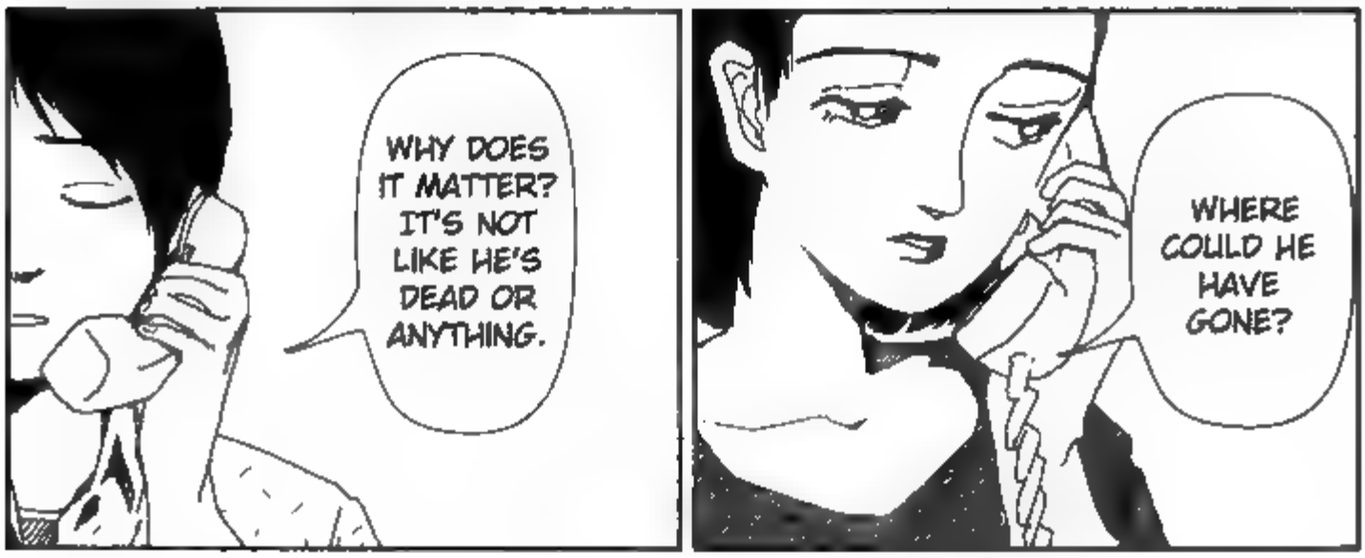

And we all left, going our separate ways.


WE GOT A CALL FROM THE COMPANY ...
THEY SAY HE HASN'T GONE BACK TO WORK.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT DAD?

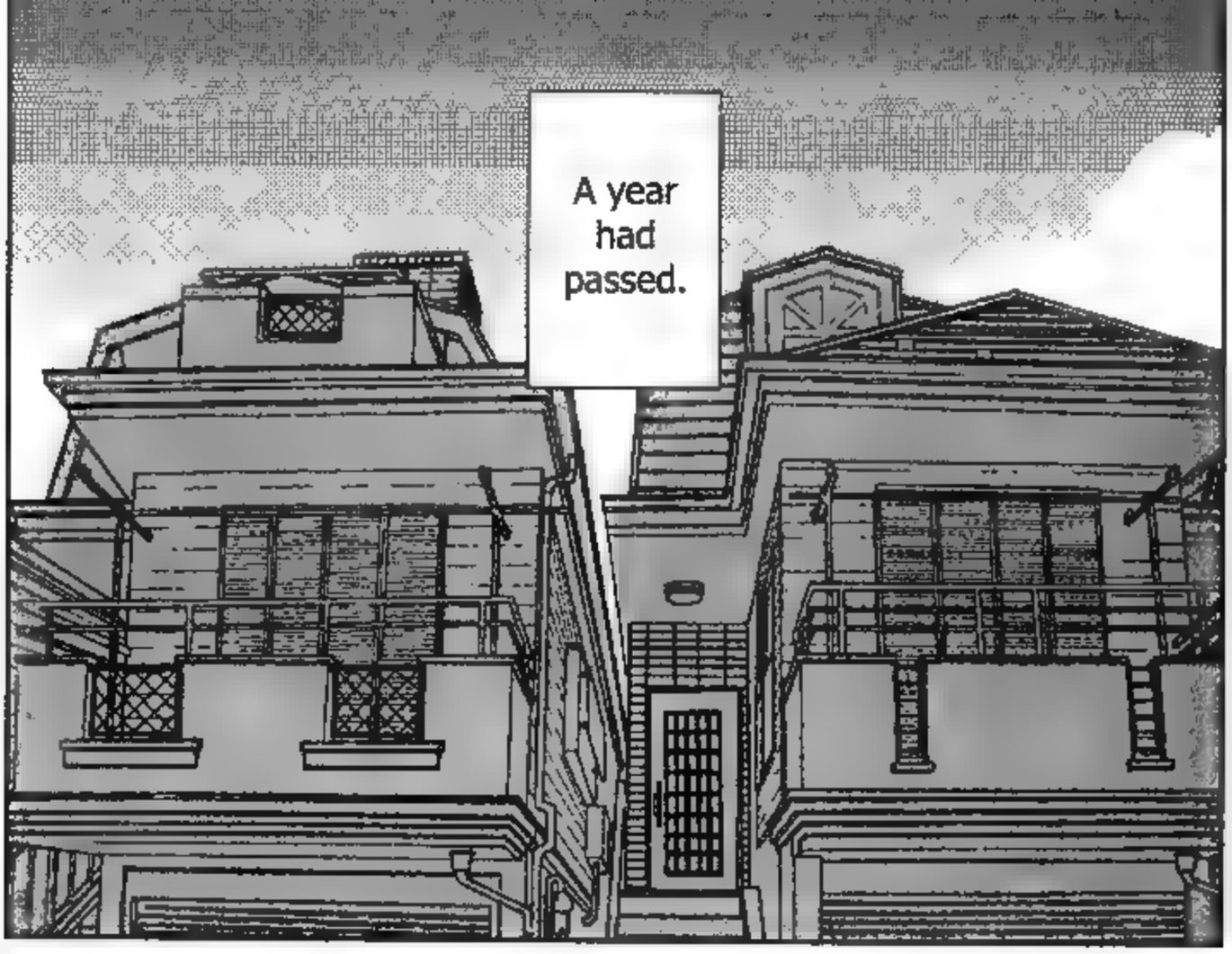

After that, I did get a call from Shouko, once.

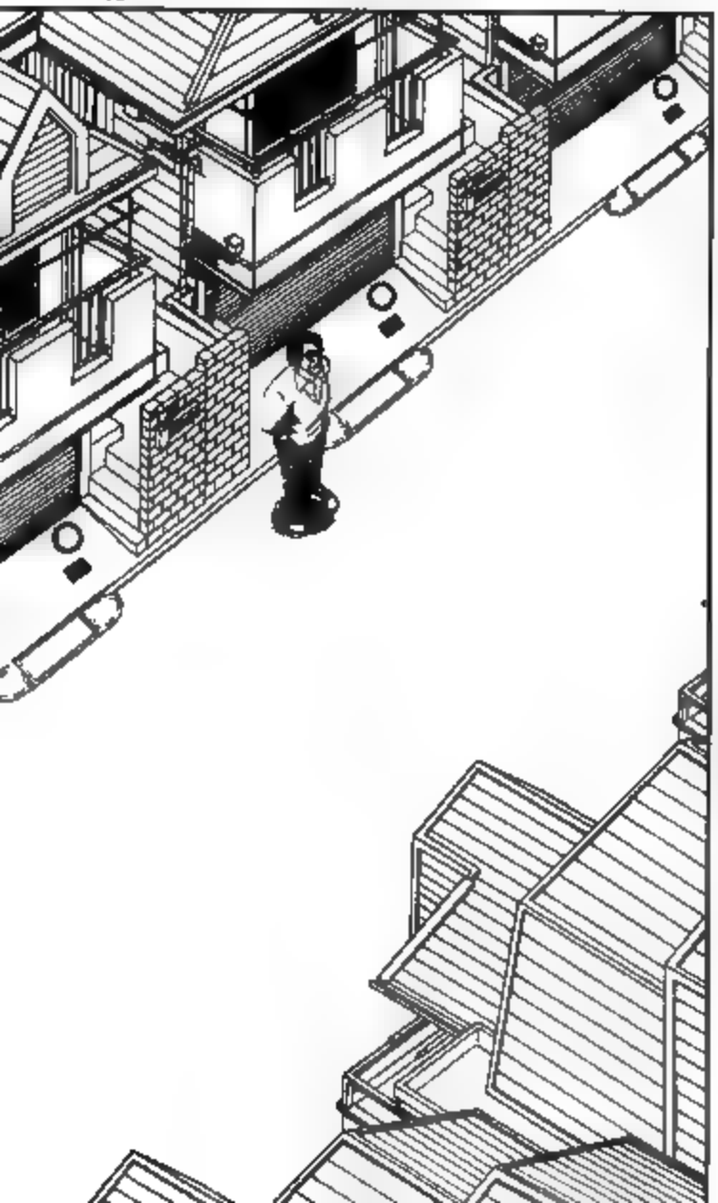

AHH, SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING EITHER?
THAT'S RIGHT! WE JUST ASSUMED HE WOULD BE IN ON IT AND GAVE THE PROJECT A GREEN LIGHT, BUT NOW...

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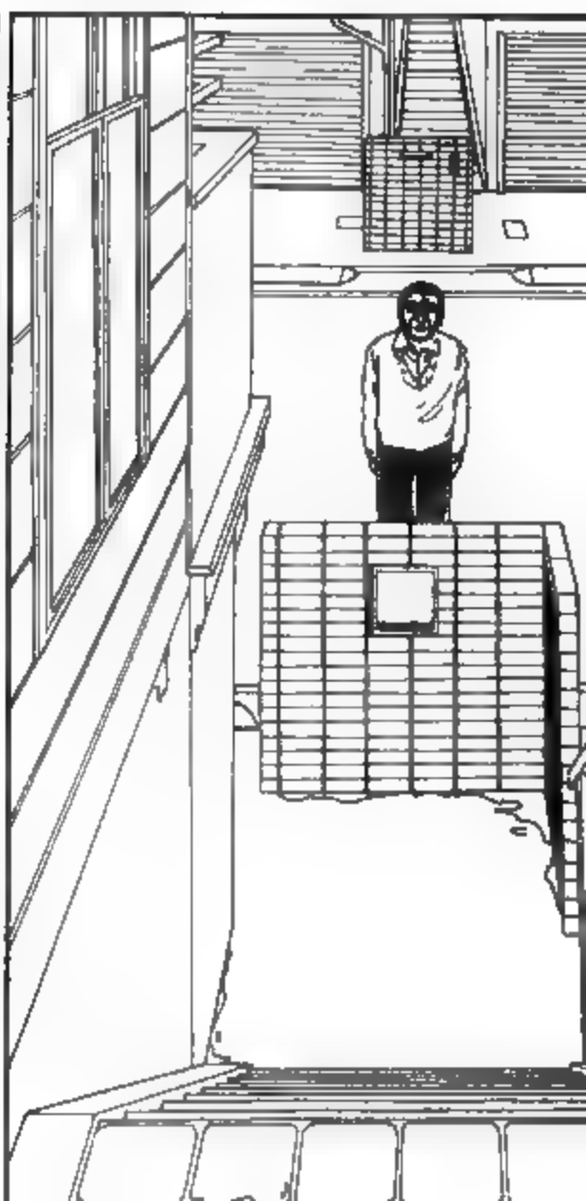

WHY DOES IT MATTER? IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S DEAD OR ANYTHING.
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?


And then ...
PROBABLY NOT.
WELL, PROBABLY NOT...


A year had passed.

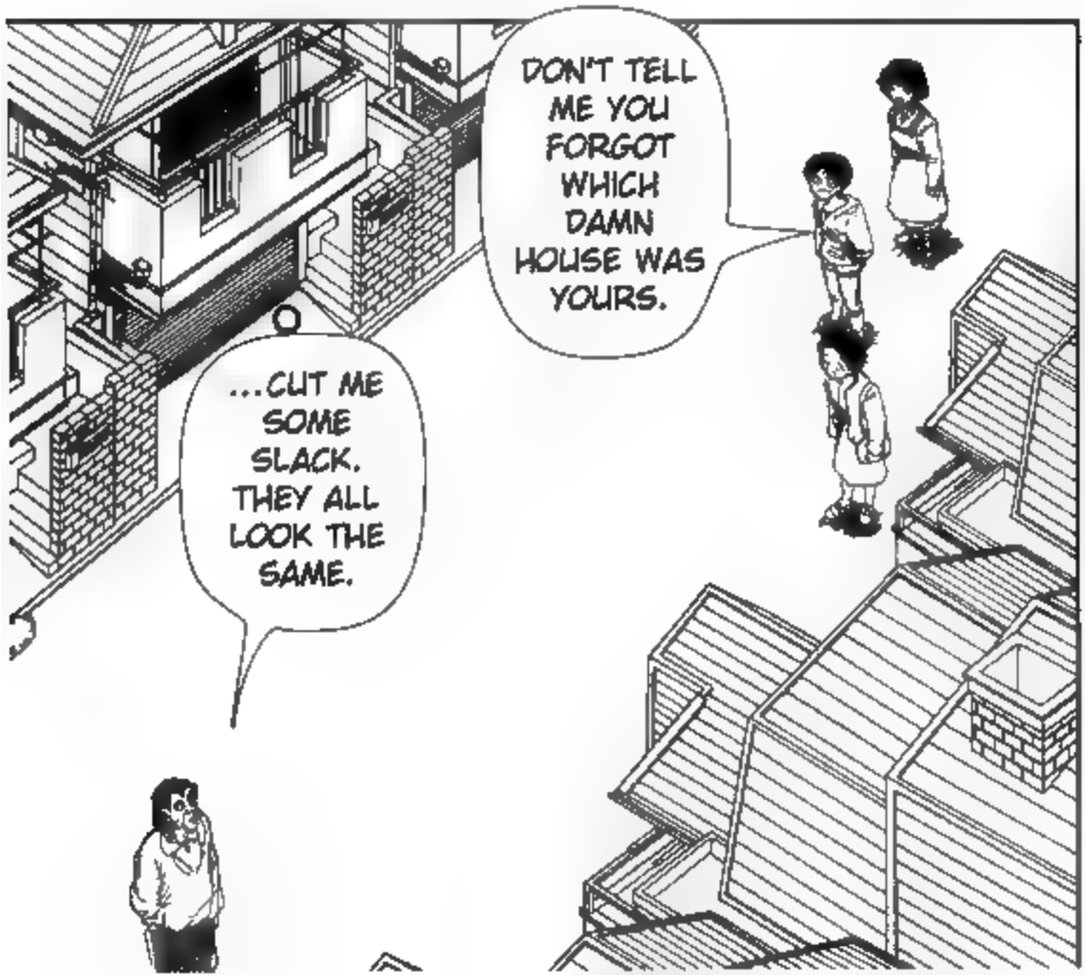









WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
WELCOME BACK, FATHER.


DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT WHICH DAMN HOUSE WAS YOURS.
...CUT ME SOME SLACK. THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME.



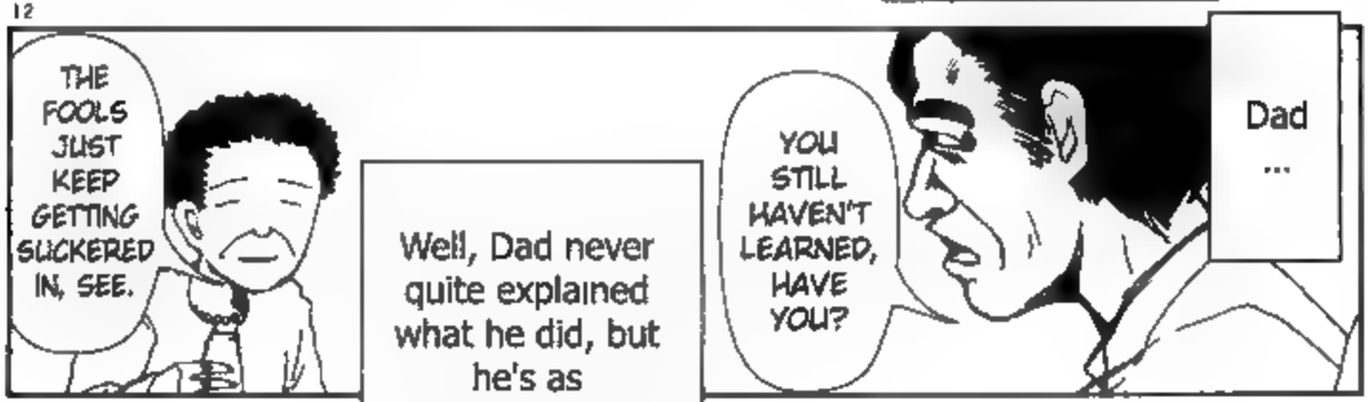

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD.
I SUPPOSE
Someone else is living in the house, so we went to eat at a nearby restaurant.

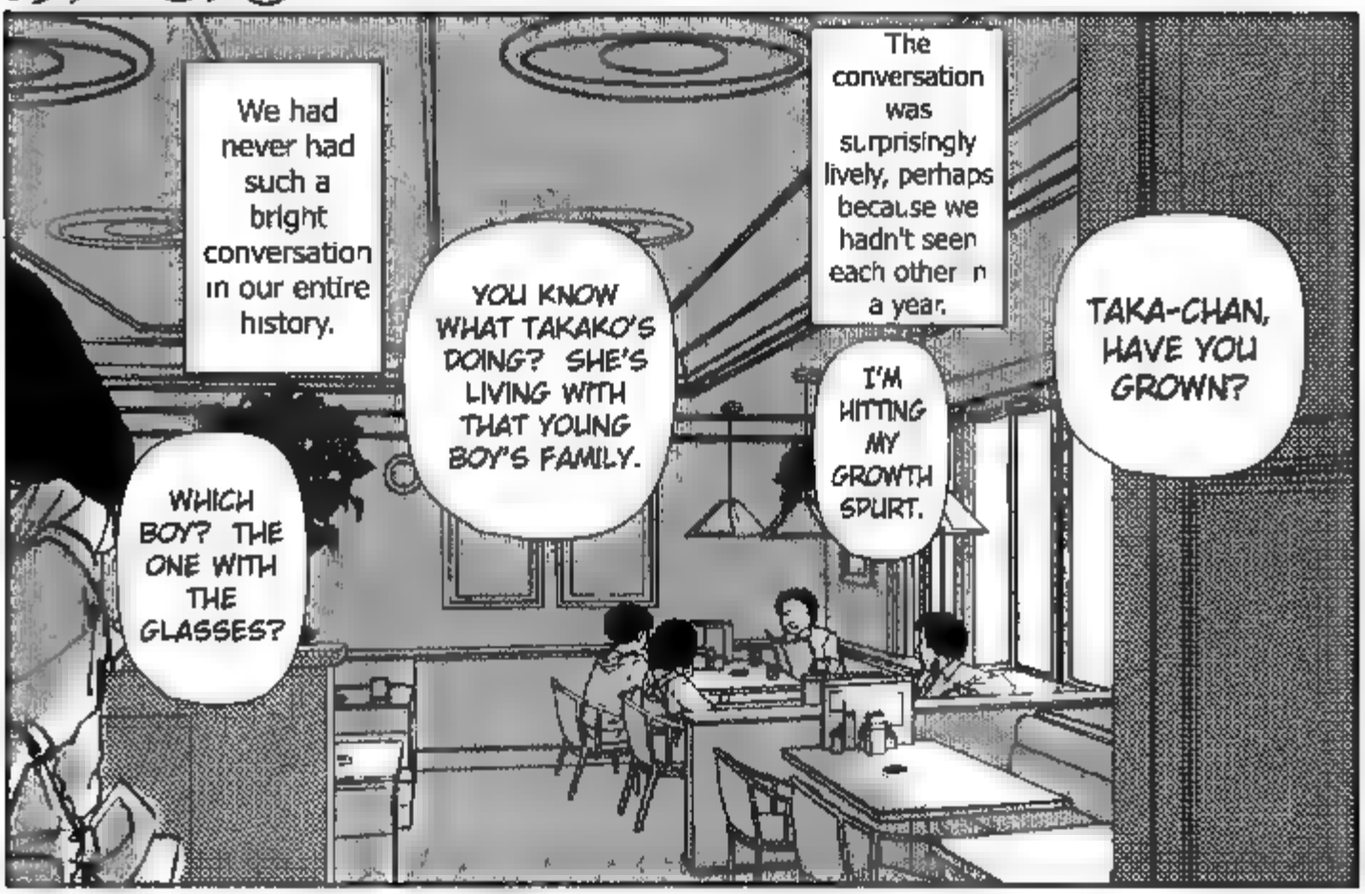

SO, WE'RE ALL TOGETHER
THAT'S RIGHT.


A YEAR PASSES SOONER THAN YOU'D THINK, DOESN'T IT?
Shouko passed her exams and got into college. She's now a student, with a part-time job.

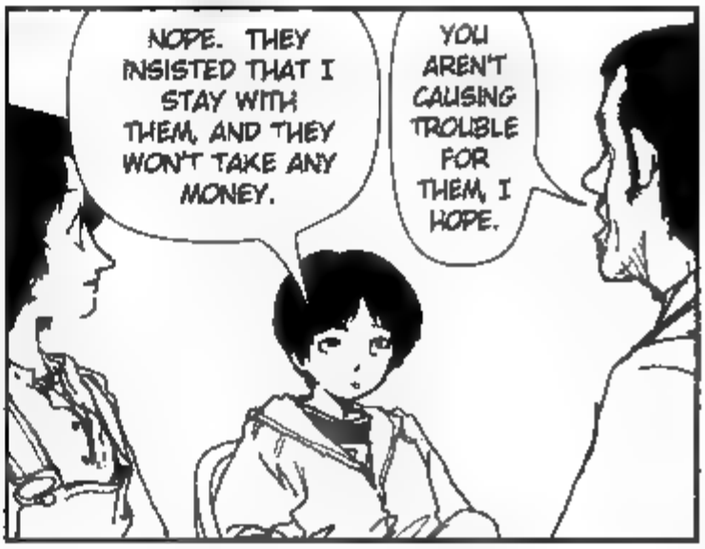

THESE CULTS ARE GREAT BUSINESS.
Mom started another shady business venture with some of her Smiley-Smile friends, and is doing quite well for herself, apparently

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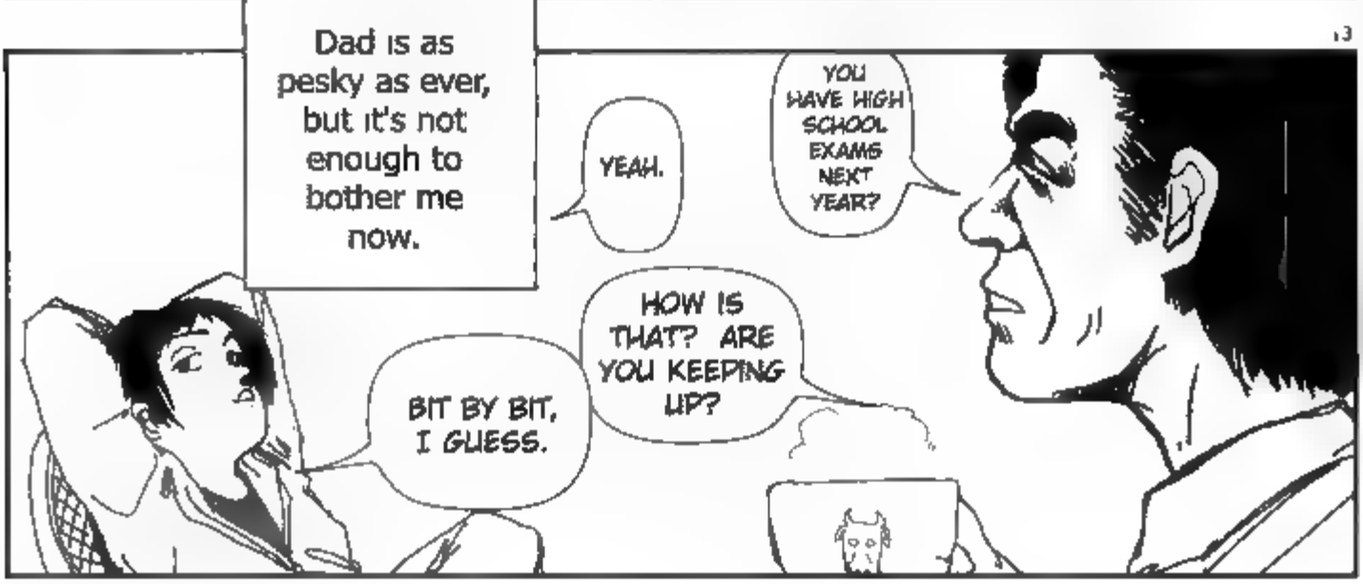

THE FOOLS JUST KEEP GETTING SUCKERED IN, SEE.
Well, Dad never quite explained what he did, but he's as obnoxious as ever.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED, HAVE YOU?
Dad ...


We had never had such a bright conversation in our entire history.
The conversation was surprisingly lively, perhaps because we hadn't seen each other in a year.
YOU KNOW WHAT TAKAKO'S DOING? SHE'S LIVING WITH THAT YOUNG BOY'S FAMILY.
TAKA-CHAN, HAVE YOU GROWN?
I'M HITTING MY GROWTH SPURT.
WHICH BOY? THE ONE WITH THE GLASSES?

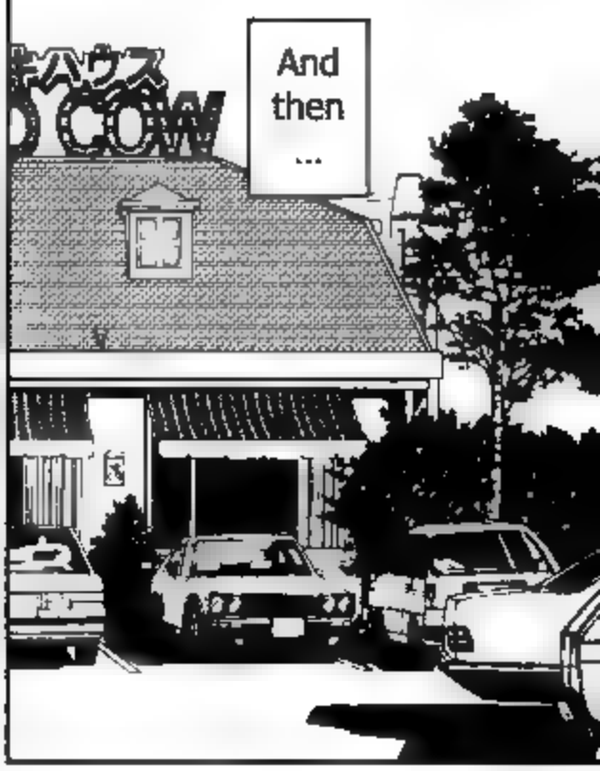

NO. DON'T BOTHER.
I'LL HAVE TO STOP BY AND THANK THEM SOMETIME


NOPE. THEY INSISTED THAT I STAY WITH THEM, AND THEY WON'T TAKE ANY MONEY.
YOU AREN'T CAUSING TROUBLE FOR THEM, I HOPE.

13


Dad is as pesky as ever, but it's not enough to bother me now.
YEAH.
YOU HAVE HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS NEXT YEAR?
HOW IS THAT? ARE YOU KEEPING UP?
BIT BY BIT, I GUESS.


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, NOW?
Shouko was the first one to bring it up.


And then ...


HMMM ...
But I'd bet we were all thinking the same thing.


WELL, LET'S SEE...


We all pretended to think it over...

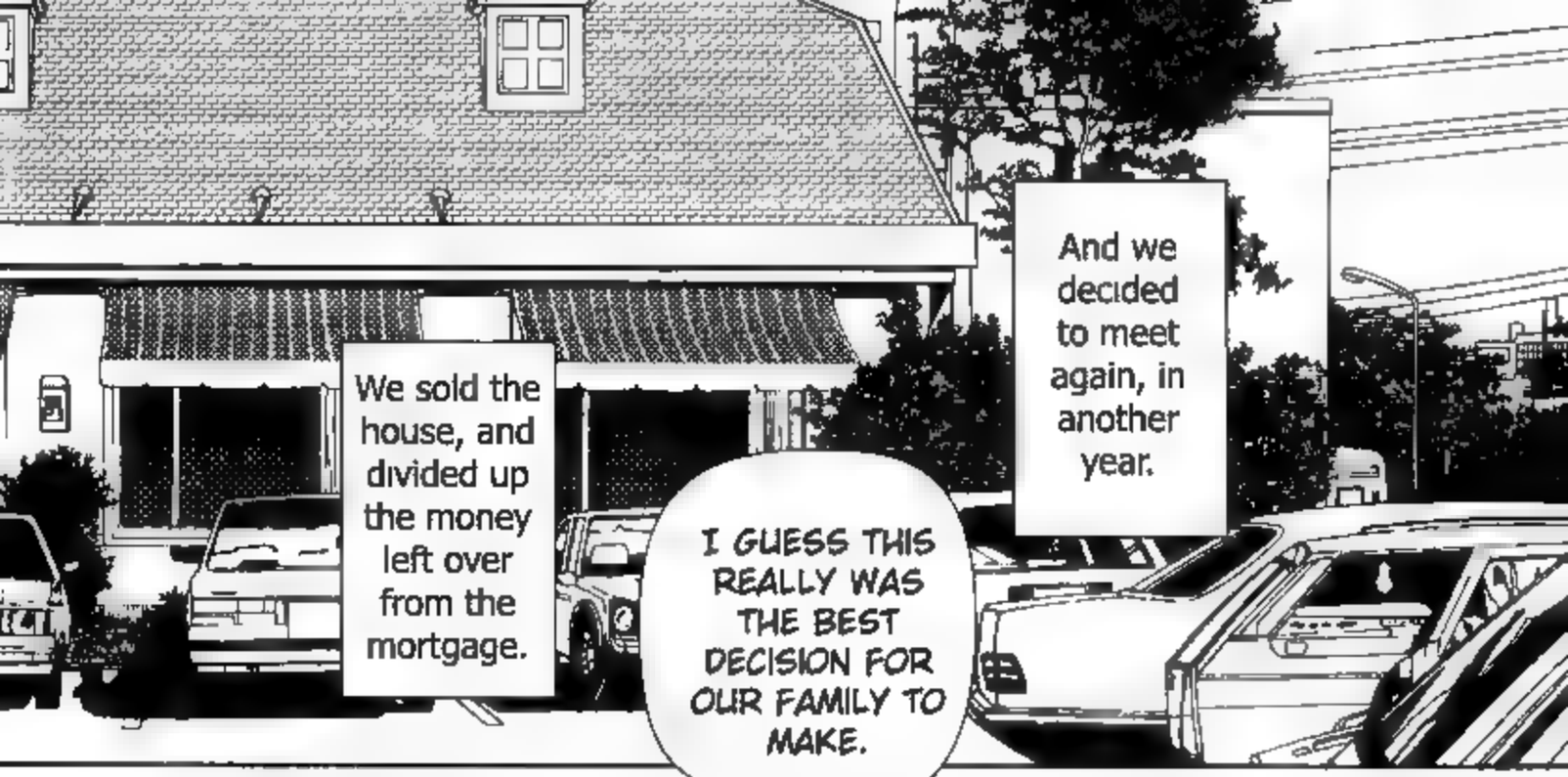



WE EACH HAVE OUR PLACE TO RETURN TO, NOW...
...IT LOOKS LIKE...




I SUPPOSE... IT MIGHT BE BEST IF WE CONTINUE GOING OUR OWN WAYS.


ステーキハウス
DEAD COW


We sold the house, and divided up the money left over from the mortgage.
And we decided to meet again, in another year.
I GUESS THIS REALLY WAS THE BEST DECISION FOR OUR FAMILY TO MAKE.


YEAH.
EVEN IF IT IS A BIT WEIRD.


YEP.
OUR GIRLS ARE ALL GROWN UP NOW.

16


WELL,


And we all went our separate ways again.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.
NEXT YEAR.
The weather was so beautiful after we split up, I even cried a little.
WHAT'S UP?
OH, NOTHING.
...YEAH.
SHALL WE?


After that, we continued meeting up once or twice a year.
Once, we even went on a vacation, for two days and one night.
And then ..
Five years later, Dad's cancer relapsed.


Suzuki Ichiro is having a dream, right now.
FATHER

TRANSLATED BY STEPHEN PAUL

SCANNED AND EDITED BY GATSU

THEHAWKS.ORG

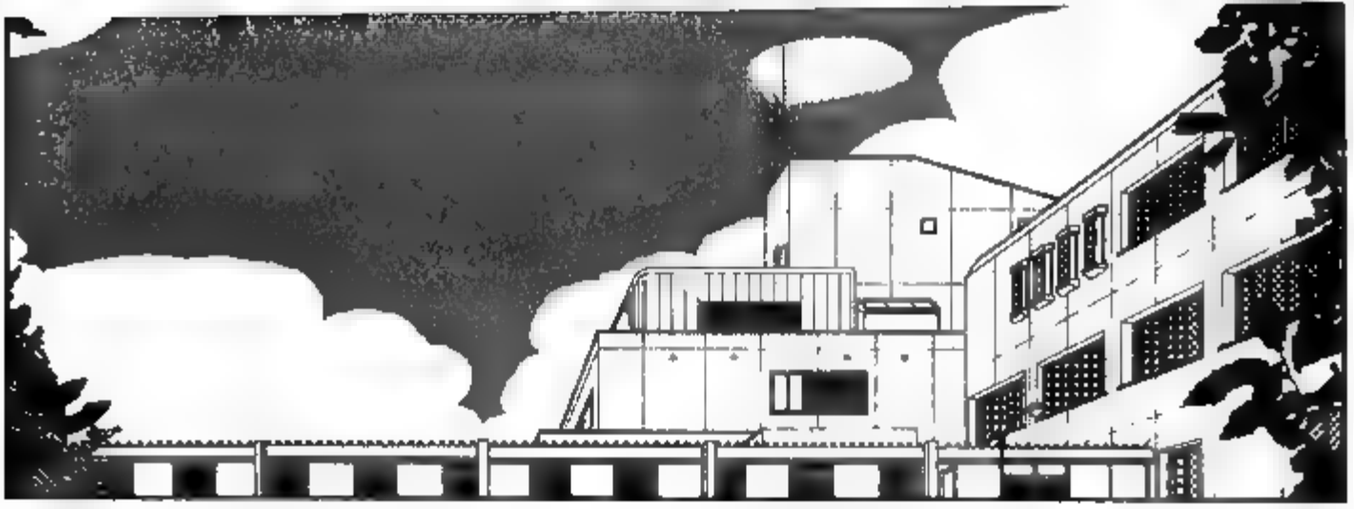
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FINAL CHAPTER -
PEOPLE DIE




WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SWEATING.
...OH, IT'S NOTHING ...
JUST GOT THE HEATER ON A LITTLE TOO HIGH.
IT'S STILL DARK AT 6 A.M., THIS TIME OF YEAR.
SURE IS.
H
0
1
2
LOOK AT THE MOON! IT'S FULL.


AND IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN.
OUT OF THE BLUE, YOU GET TRANSFERRED TO HOKKAIDO.
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA LEAVE FOR A LONG TIME, PAPA?
YEAH... 3 OR 5 YEARS...
WE DIDN'T COME FOR SHOPPING, TAKA-CHAN. WE'RE SEEING PAPA OFF.
HEY, LET'S BUY SOME CANDY! I WANT SOME MARU-CHAN CANDY.
IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A BIG PROJECT THIS TIME.
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME FOR THE COMPANY. GOOD BUSINESS MEANS I'LL BE MUCH BUSIER.
HAHAHA. BEARS ARE ONLY IN THE MOUNTAINS, HON.
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF PAPA GETS EATEN BY A BEAR?
NO! DON'T!
PAPA, BE CAREFUL OF BEARS IN HOKKAIDO.



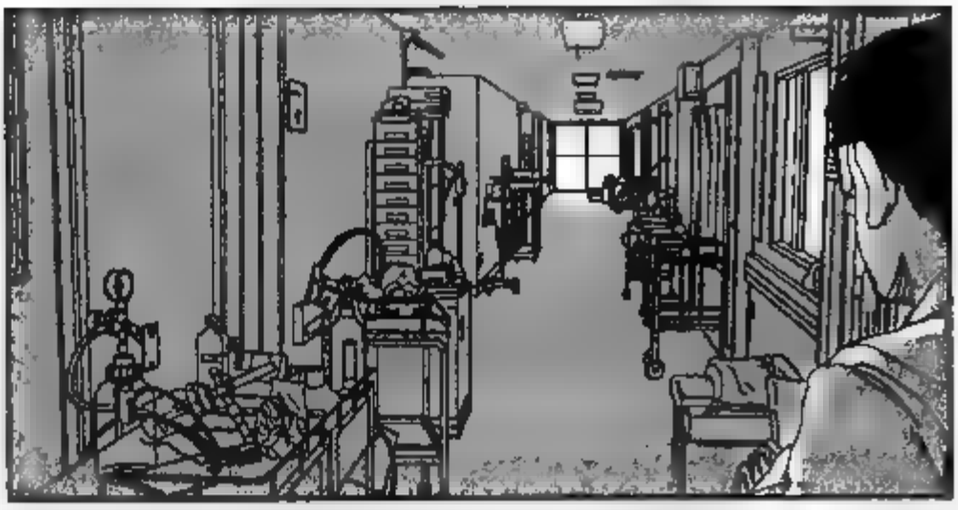



HOW IS HE?
SLEEPING, THEY SAID.

6

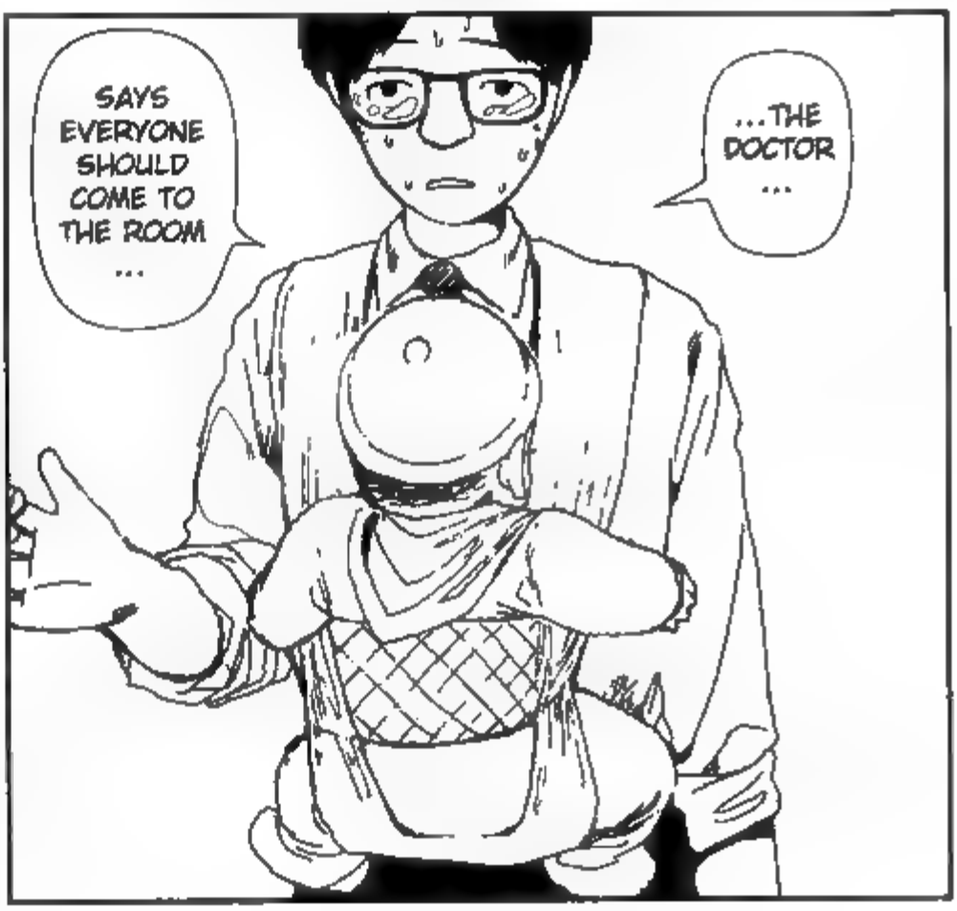

THEY SAID WHEN THEY OPENED HIM UP, IT HAD SPREAD SO FAR THEY COULDN'T OPERATE ON IT.
IS IT REALLY BAD?

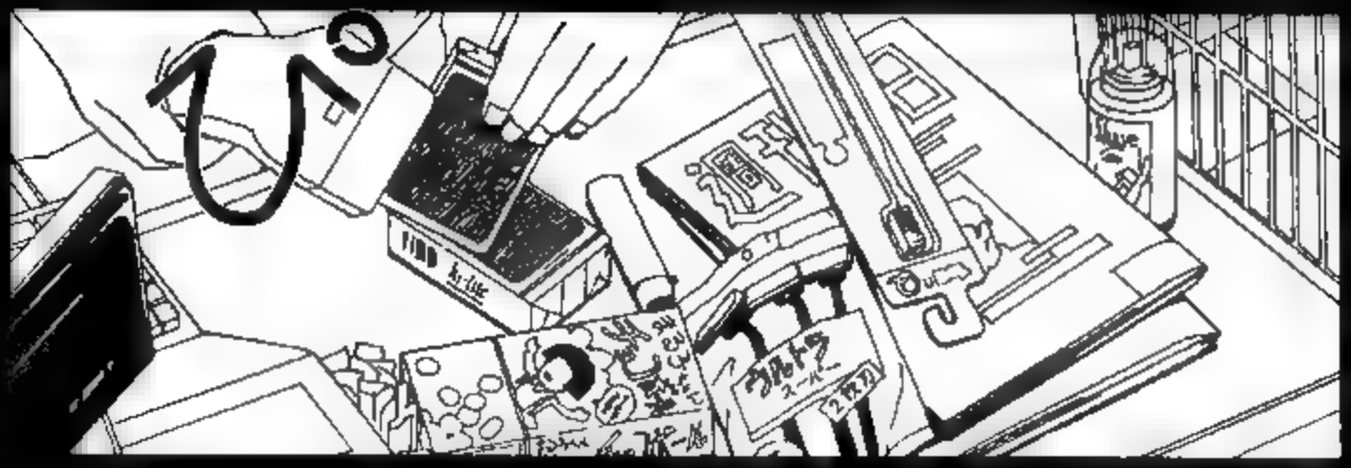





HMM?
MOM, MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST, WHILE HE'S STILL OUT.
I'LL BE FINE.

7


SAYS EVERYONE SHOULD COME TO THE ROOM ...
...THE DOCTOR ...




JEEZ.
YAYYY, I GOT CANDY!


WILL THIS DO?
I HOPE IT WORKS OUT.
WITH THE WEATHER ?
YEAH, I'LL WALK TO THE STATION. IT'LL DO GOOD TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN.
NO, WITH SHOUKO, AND TAKAKO, AND YOU.


OH FATHER, YOU REALLY DO WORRY TOO MUCH.
...ALREADY GROWN-UPS?
IT'LL BE FINE. THEY'RE BOTH GROWN-UPS NOW.
OH YES, THEY'RE FULLY ADULT.
IT'S GOING TO BE A BIT LONELIER FROM NOW ON.
I SUPPOSE IT WILL.
WELL, THEN.
GOODBYE.

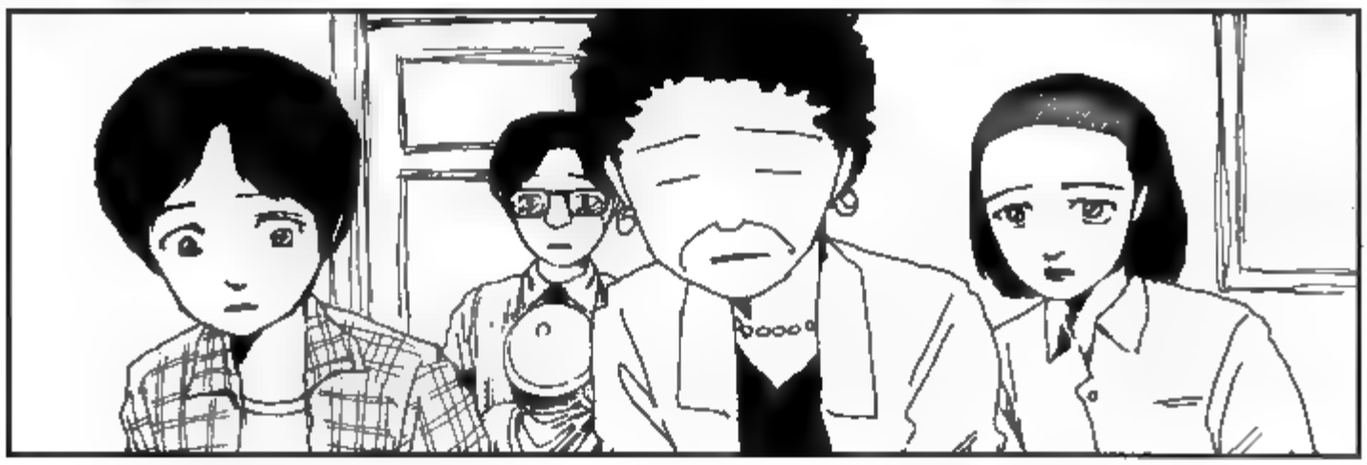


10

Ahhh.



It's a great feeling.





11

Sleepy. So very sleepy.

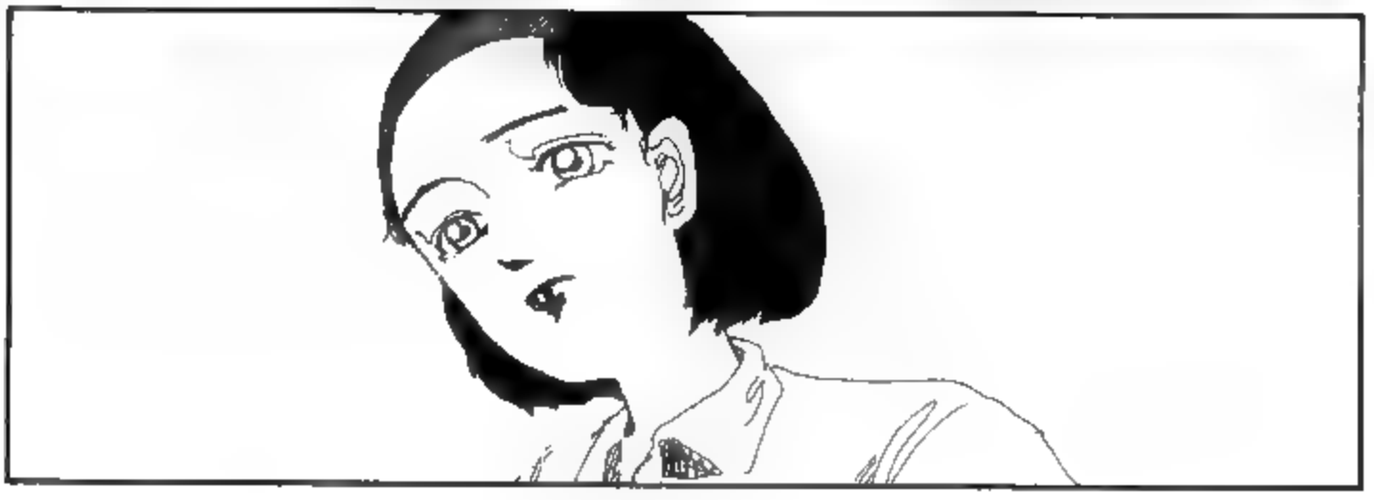






Ahh...

12



ありがとう④



You just hang in there.





13

There's nothing to be sad about.

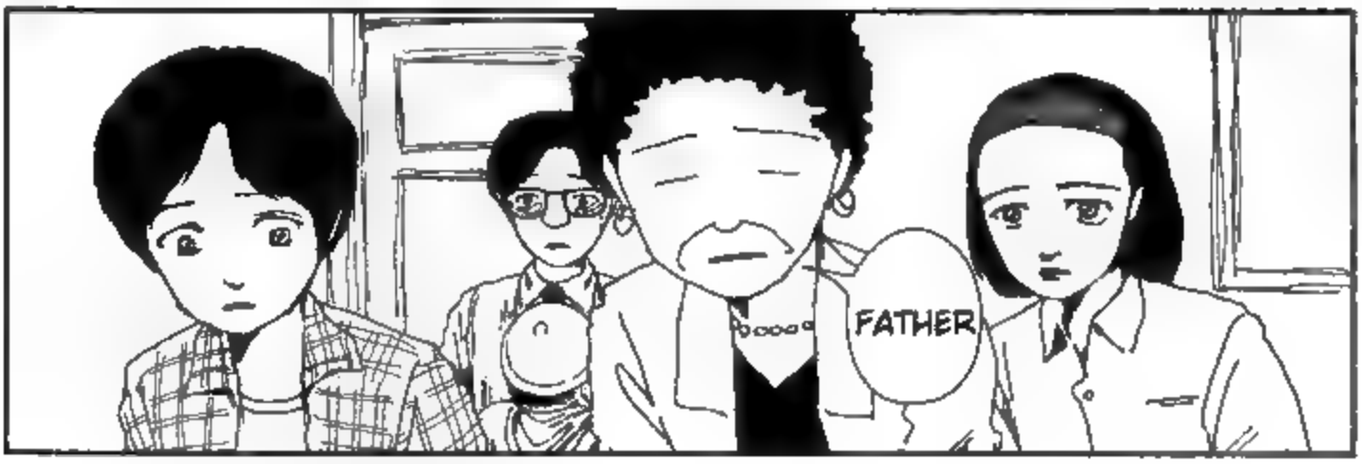


Your dad did everything that he could.



I'm happy now.

14





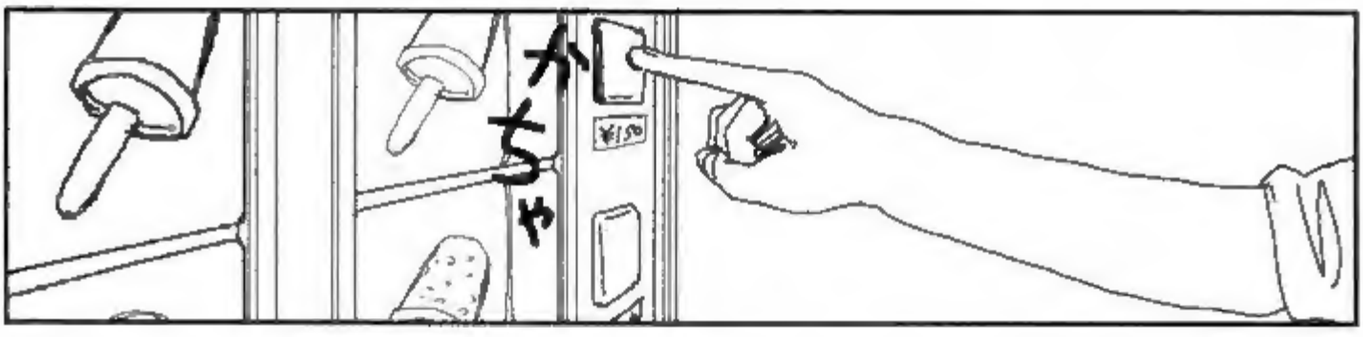




15




Father?

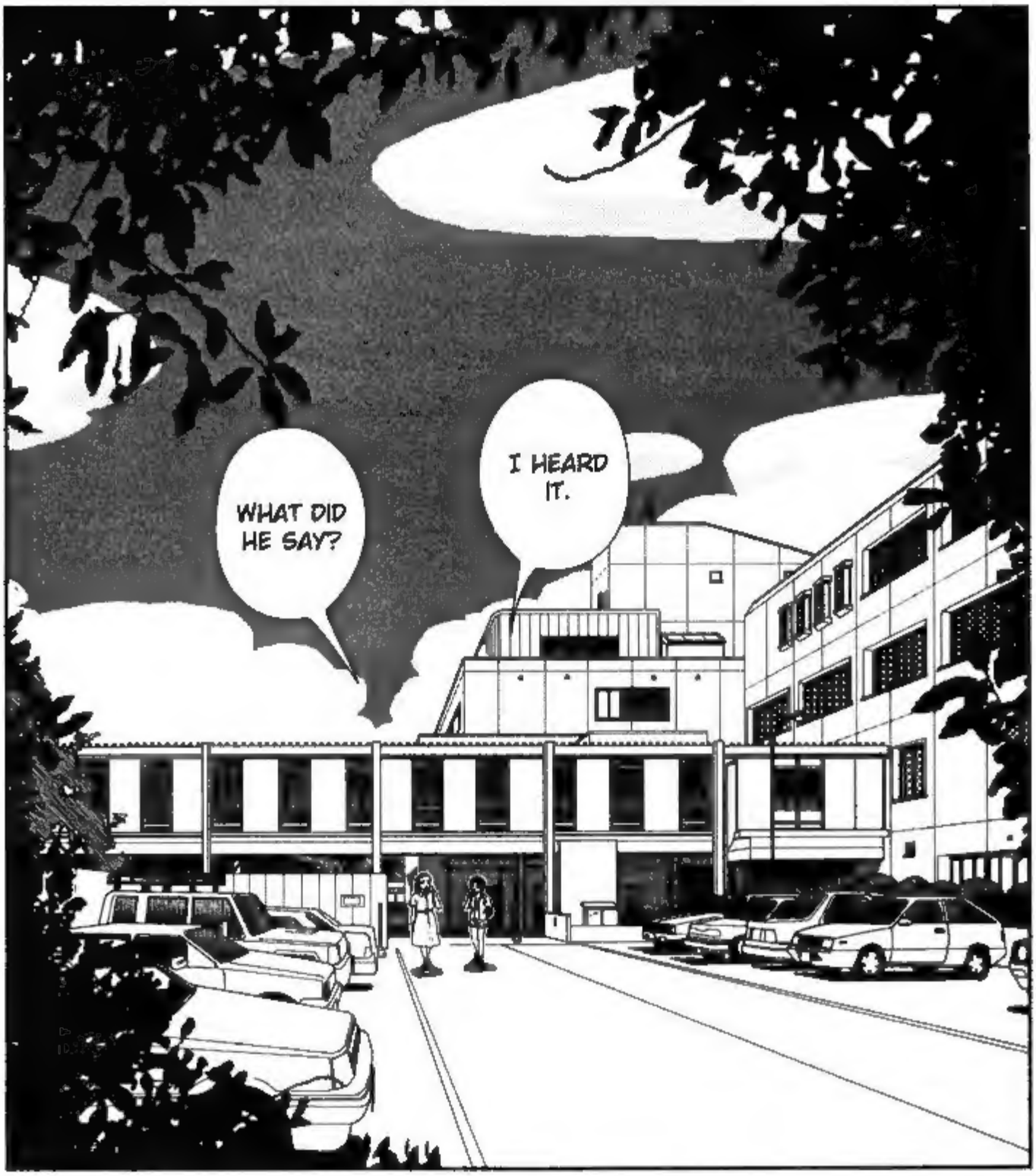

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16


SHE'S WITH THE BUG, ON THE PHONE WITH THE FUNERAL HOME.
WHERE'S MOM?


I'M PRETTY SURE YOU CAN RENT SOME THING.
AND EVEN I WOULDN'T GO TO A FUNERAL WEARING SCHOOL CLOTHES...
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? I THINK THE ONLY BLACK CLOTHES I HAVE IS MY SCHOOL JERSEY...
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE DAD SAID, AT THE END?
AT THE END?
SAY.
17
OH.
HE WAS MUTTERING SOMETHING, AT THE END.



18

"Thank you."

The End

Lines from pp.212-218 from the film "Chichi Ariki" (There Was a Father) [1942]
Writing Credits: Ikeda Tadao, Yanai Takao, Ozu Yasujiro

- Arigato : The End -